

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

## Students unclear on alcohol use policies

Ambiguity remains in underage drinking rules

BY SOPHIE KORN  
AND LAURA PERALTA  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

In light of the recent revision of the University's policy on off-campus conduct, many students living in the greater Homewood area have called attention to the lack of clarity regarding how to handle instances of alcohol poisoning, especially cases involving underage drinkers.

While fraternity members are told by their national headquarters that they should bring any one who has drank too much to the hospital, they say that the school has never specifically told them what actions to take.

Undergraduates are also unclear as to whom the administration will hold accountable when the incident is brought to their attention.

"I was never specifically told as president ... the school's policy on this particular situation," said Brian Kinsella, president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

The Office of the Dean of Student Life has made efforts to educate students on the dangers of alcohol. However, they have no current plan to inform undergrads of how to handle this type of situation.

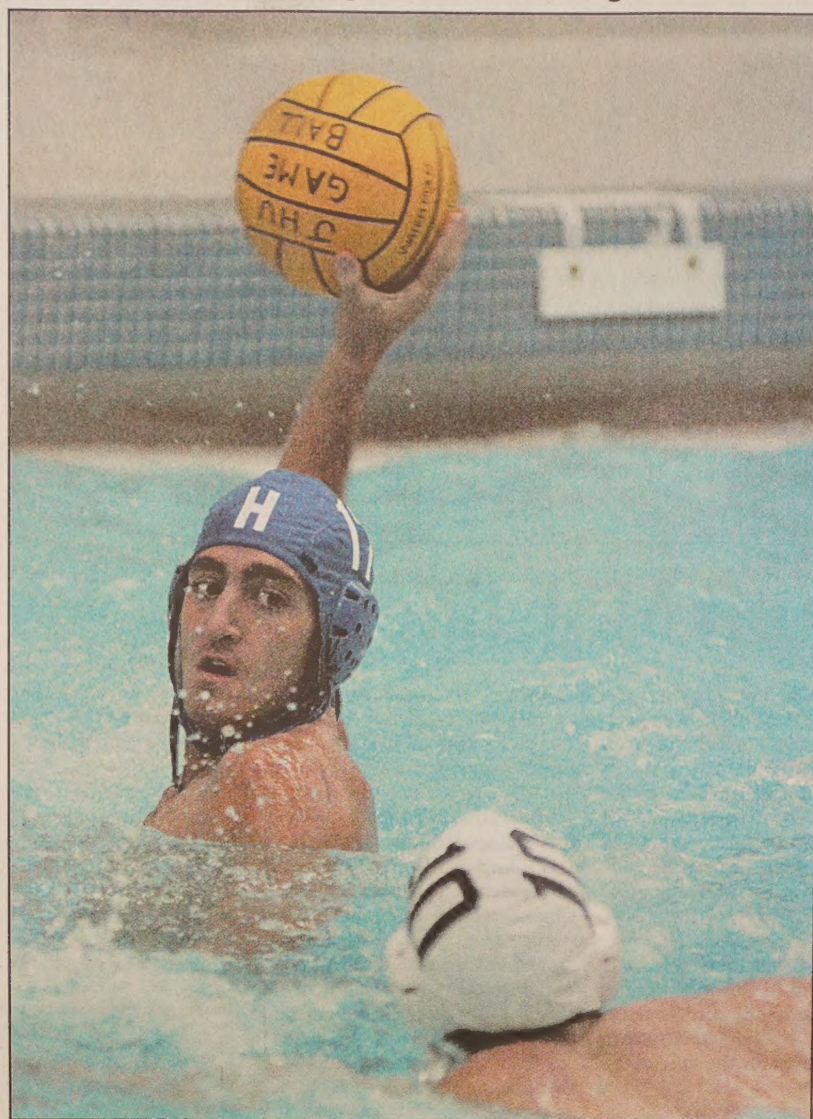
When asked how the school was going to inform students about its policy on this issue, Associate Dean of Student Life Dorothy Sheppard responded, "I don't know."

The policy has the same three-strike structure as the one regarding off-campus behavior. Sheppard said that the student who is brought to the hospital is held accountable unless the University finds that someone was forcing the student involved to drink, or that the people hosting the party were not following proper procedures, such as checking IDs.

She said, "If it's the first time, it's a warning [for the student brought to the hospital]. Second time, probation and some sort of alcohol counseling. Third time could be suspension."

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## Water polo achieves highest-ever ranking



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Sophomore driver Brady Sieber and the Blue Jays are ranked No. 19 in the nation, including both Divisions I and III, after a fifth-place finish at the ECAC championship.

## Security escort van service faces cutback

BY SEUNG HYU BAEK  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Hopkins Security has announced plans to refocus security escort services to cater primarily to students traveling between campus and their residences, while leaving some uncertainty as to whether or not students traveling to and from parties will still be welcome on shuttles.

Though a bulletin will soon note the addition of a weekend shuttle that will serve requests within Charles Village, Captain George Kibler of Hopkins Security indicated that shuttles will now focus more on school-related requests and less on personal transport. Many students fear such a significant change, effectively eliminating guaranteed no-questions-asked transport within a one-mile radius of campus, will leave them without options.

"We wanted to give students the ability to go wherever within a one-mile radius, and it blossomed into a full blown taxi service," Kibler said.

According to the Security Department, three major changes will take effect on Monday, Oct. 3.

The first change will increase fixed-route services to frequently visited shopping and dining locations within the one-mile range from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. While there are currently only two fixed-route vans making trips to the Rotunda, the Department of Campus Safety and Security will introduce two additional fixed-route vans. One van will run between Wolman Hall and the Waverly Shopping Center, and another will run from Wolman Hall to the corner of 22nd Street and Maryland Avenue. Both vans will run every half-hour.

Another change will eliminate the fixed-route escort van service after 10 p.m. on weekdays. This van formerly provided service between campus and nearby residential areas and shopping centers until 2:30 a.m.

The third major change will eliminate the ability of students needing a ride for non-school-related activities to request pickups from locations not on the normal route after 10 p.m. Trips to commercial locations, such as to a supermarket or to a friend's house, will no longer be provided.

Kibler said that this change is intended to concentrate exclusively on providing services to students traveling between campus and their residences. Previously, on-demand pickups were available on request for transport anywhere within a one-mile radius of campus daily from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m.

This change is not inconsistent with the University's stated policy regarding the shuttles, according to Kibler. "The purpose of the escort service as themed by the administration and security department is to provide a safe transportation service to students for school-related needs," he said.

"We cannot meet the goal of [having pick-ups every] 15 minutes for everyone on every case," Kibler added. "We've got people who are waiting 30 minutes, 45 minutes or an hour—in frequently, but enough to cause concern. To fix that, we cut down services for those who want to go to non-school related functions," Kibler said.

Some students have expressed alarm at the changes, commenting that the shuttle service, in its previous form, was a vital service.

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## Hopkins reorganizes security staff

Students express concern that new dorm officer schedules reduce familiarity

BY JESSICA REBARBER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With changes in entrance security at Homewood residence halls, 11 Hopkins police officers have been relocated to other security positions on campus, while employees contracted by Silver Star Security have taken their places as desk guards.

Former Wolman desk security officer "Mama" Vice was among the "Hop Cops"

who were removed from their residence hall security posts.

"With the implementation of the turnstiles, staffing of these checkpoints were [sic] reviewed to match available personnel with the skills necessary for access control and for other security-related duties," Director of Homewood Security Ed Skrodzki said.

"Assigning contract guards to the residences frees up 11 campus police officer positions for reassignment to patrol posts on

campus and in the neighborhoods," Skrodzki added. "On those patrols, the campus police officers will be available for response to any emergency, whether on campus, on the street or in the residence halls."

Students have taken notice of the change in personnel, primarily through the absence of campus police officer Cerlisteen "Mama" Vice from the Wolman security desk. Vice had been employed at Hopkins for over 20

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## Voter turnout high for freshmen

BY XIAO-BO YUAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The results for the freshman class elections were announced at the Student Council meeting Tuesday, with a turnout of 64.2 percent of freshman voters, nearly twice as high as last year's turnout.

The elections were the first held since a University-wide referendum dissolved the Board of Elections last spring after a series of elections plagued by fraud and delays.

"We ran a better election than the BoE ever could have," said StuCo Executive President Atin Agarwal, who oversaw class elections. "All it took was commitment, hard work, and good organization and planning to run a good election."

According to Agarwal, 744 freshmen cast online ballots for the class president, vice president, secretary, and senators on the finance, authorization, legislation, and leadership appointments committees on Saturday and Sunday.

Prasanna Chandrasekar won the class president election with 112 votes. The vice-president position went to Jess Buicko, who received 149 votes, while the positions of senators on the finance, authorization and leadership appointments went to Daniel Ammirato, Nick Pucci and Kate Gavin, respectively.

Due to results that were "too close to count," said Agarwal, a runoff election will be held for the senator on legislation between finalists Jeremy Batoff and Kate Jacob, set for Thursday from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Newly-elected class president Chandrasekar said that he hoped to make StuCo representatives more accessible to students. "My entire philosophy is that if elected, you're working for the class and nothing else. The [freshman] class is really involved and trying to take charge."

This year's turnout marked an increase in voter participation from the past five years, during which the

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MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

James Carville was the opening speaker for the '05 MSE Symposium.

## Carville speaks on future of politics

BY ERICA MITRANO  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

"The State of American Politics" was the topic of discussion for political strategist James Carville, who spoke in Shriver Hall this past Thursday as the first speaker of the 2005 Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium.

Carville is noted for having masterminded Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign; he has also worked as a political commentator on CNN's "The Situation Room," and he formerly co-hosted CNN's *Crossfire*.

Carville's presentation featured a mock speech that he pinpointed as

the message that he felt needs to be articulated when a Democrat accepts the office of president in 2008.

Carville's speech criticized the current condition of America but remained hopeful about the future.

"We've lost allies, we've lost the \$5.6 trillion deficit, we've even lost an American city. ... But one thing we have not lost: We retain the spirit of this country, we retain the most creative people on Earth," he said.

"I'm calling on a New Patriotism for a new America."

Religious faith, predominantly Christian faith, would be essential to this New Patriotism, Carville said.

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## Task Force finds arts lacking

Report released last spring proposes changes to arts programs

BY PATRICK MEANEY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Although arts at Hopkins are impressive in diversity, as reported by the Homewood Arts Task Force in their final report, the University can and must do more to promote the visibility and accessibility of performing, visual and musical arts at the Homewood campus.

Launched in response to concern among students and faculty that arts at Hopkins are in a state of neglect, the Task Force issued some 45 comprehensive recom-

mendations to renew and maintain the arts. The top ten of these recommendations are to be completed no later than 2010, and work has already begun on several side projects.

In the fall of 2004, Provost Steven Knapp was appointed to study the state of arts at Homewood. "This is the first time we've sat down and looked at the arts specifically," said Knapp.

Still, meeting all of the recommendations would be a problem, said Knapp. "Some of these goals are like moving targets," due to the nature of scheduling and planning

in an institution as large as Hopkins.

"The first step is to appoint a Vice Provost for the Arts," said Eric Beatty, director of the Homewood Arts Program. "Once things happen at the senior level, the rest of the recommendations will start falling into place."

In regards to funding, Beatty remains confident, "It's always a challenge to raise money, but where there's a will, there's a way."

"The biggest restraint now," said Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Pamela Cranston, "is per-

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#### Television Junkies

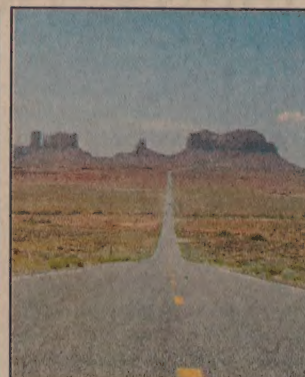
Get the scoop on what's expected to be good and what's going to bad in this week's Television Focus. Found out what shows you should be setting your TiVo to. FOCUS B2

#### Audio Wizardry

Fans of J.K. Rowling's much-acclaimed Harry Potter series can now treat their ears to a digital version of the series, available online through iTunes. SCIENCE A8

#### Minus the Bear

Discover one of the rising gems in the world of indie music. Find out for yourself if you should be making room for these emo rockers in your iPod. ARTS B8



#### Road Trip

Bask in the natural glory of the Southwest, from Moab, Ut. to Arizona and San Diego. Our photographer takes you there. PHOTO ESSAY B12



# Hopkins changes over to Silver Star

## “Mama” Vice and others replaced in dorms

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1*

years before her position changed. “[She] accepted a position as a Security Systems Specialist, which involves the operation and monitoring of the smart CCTV cameras. Her new position accommodates her interests and needs,” Skrodzki said.

Students have reported that the relocation of Vice as well as other campus police officers had caused security desk personnel to appear less student-friendly.

“If [Vice] didn’t know you by your name or face she would approach you and find out who you were,” sophomore Tanya Vargas said.

“I feel that security guards that are contracted are very detached from the students,” Vargas said.

“While transferring to this position means that Officer Vice will be moving from the ranks of campus police officer, she will be assuming an important role in our security effort,” Skrodzki said.

“Like other officers who have been reassigned, Officer Vice will continue to receive the same compensation and benefits in this new position,” he added.

“All the campus police officers formerly assigned to university housing have been transferred to assignments where they can more effectively use their training and experience to enhance the safety of students, faculty and staff,” Skrodzki said.

“None of the campus police officers lost their jobs,” he added.

Sophomore Natalie Baer said that she believes the addition of Silver Star Security guards is an attempt by the administration to impress students with a false sense of security.

“Sometimes I feel like the school is trying to appear more secure, but I don’t really feel safer,” Baer said.

Hopkins hired Silver Star Security to join campus security efforts on the Homewood Campus after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11,

2001, when a total of ten uniformed part-time guards began patrolling the campus.

The security department said that this increased security was an appropriate response to the elevated terror alert.

After the death of Linda Trinh in January, Hopkins administrators contracted Silver Star Security guards to patrol parts of Charles Village from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Additional guards were assigned to the Homewood and Bradford Residence Halls, and a Silver Star guard station was added in the immediate vicinity of the Charles Apartment building.

These changes went into effect on Feb. 14, when Silver Star guards began patrolling Homewood on foot. This semester, upon complete implementation of the program, the guards began bicycle patrols.

Four guards remain on duty for 16 hours each day of the week. The reach of their patrol area was increased to include University Parkway and Charles, Calvert, and 29th Streets.



JOSEPHINE LEE/NEWS-LETTER  
**Silver Star officer Brandon McWilliams is a newly added patrolman.**

Silver Star Security is division of Broadway Services, Inc., which is a subsidiary of the Dome Corporation. The Dome Corporation is a subsidiary of Johns Hopkins University. However, no Silver Star employees are employees of Hopkins.

# Homewood arts found insufficient

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1*

forming space for the arts.” In spite of the traditional Hopkins image, which emphasizes sciences and medicine to the point of sacrifice in other fields, interest in the arts is present everywhere at Hopkins. “It would be wrong to think engineering students aren’t interested in the arts,” said Cranston.

Many students active in the arts, such as sophomore Harrison Wadsworth, feel passed over. “There’s a strong effort from above being made to encourage the arts at Hopkins, but the implementation is oftentimes clumsy,” said Wadsworth, a political science major who is involved in student music on campus. “This makes students in the arts feel patronized because their problems are not being dealt with seriously.”

In February 2005, 276 undergraduate students submitted a voluntary online survey about the arts at Hopkins. The survey confirmed what the Task Force had feared: while most students felt they had some opportunities to explore the arts, they were far from ample.

One student summarily wrote, “[Hopkins] should provide adequate opportunities for students to pursue [the arts] without feeling pressured by academic requirements.”

The recommendations issued by the report would work to streamline class times and facilitate greater flexibility among students who would like to have art courses as part of their schedules, said Beatty. The report calls for the University to “synchronize the class schedules of the Peabody and Homewood campuses,” a step necessary to allow students to cross-list between the two schools and avoid prohibitive scheduling conflicts.

Currently, student knowledge of the Task Force’s action is limited. At the moment, the Student Activities Council is the most direct liaison between students and administrators. Says sophomore Lauren Links, “I’m involved with SAC through Vocal Chords [a student a cappella group], and I do know that they’re supportive of student art groups on campus.” When asked if she knew of the HATF, Links said she did not.

Other goals are more long-term. Shriver Auditorium would eventually meet its demise as the central hub for performances at Hopkins, which would instead take place in a specially-built performing arts center. According to Dean of University Libraries Winston Tabb, a member of the Web site Task Force, collaboration with a number of architects has already begun.

While no vice provost has yet been nominated, work on projects like the new arts center and an improved arts Web site, some of the top recommendations of the Task Force, has commenced. But as things are now, projects like the desperately-needed renovations to Shriver Hall will need to wait until a permanent fund-raising strategy can be devised, presumably by the new vice provost.

Just how much the position of vice provost can do for the arts at Homewood remains to be seen. The project is “well overdue,” said Tabb, who believes that the proper steps toward a greater visibility of and accessibility to the arts have been taken.

# Carville kicks off MSE lineup

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He asserted that the wisdom of the Old and New Testaments is relevant to the modern practice of compassionate government in America.

Referencing the biblical story of the brothers Cain and Abel, he said, “We are, in essence, our brothers’ keeper.”

In a remark which brought cheers and applause from the crowd, Carville said that his “New Patriotism” would include an end to the “war on science” which, he asserted, is being waged by the Bush administration.

In its place, he said, he would launch a new “war on global warming” and a “war for energy independence.”

Carville also demanded greater personal responsibility from the poor, urging poor teenagers to “stay in school longer and get pregnant less.”

Carville concluded his description of “New Patriotism” with a call for sacrifice from ordinary Americans.

He cited former President John F. Kennedy’s statement, “Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country” from his 1961 inaugural address.

One sacrifice that Carville suggested requested that the public accept the need the work longer before retirement and include smaller cost-of-living increases in Social Security for the sake of the country.

A native of Louisiana, Carville touched on the subject of Hurricane Katrina’s impact on the city of New Orleans frequently during his speech.

He said, “The city that [my wife and I] lived in, the city that we chose to get married in, is underwater.”

Carville expressed his appreciation to Johns Hopkins and remarked that he was visiting “a campus where the average IQ is higher than my SAT.”

Student reactions to the Carville speech were largely positive, and audience members crowded into a post-speech reception hosted in Shriver Hall’s Clipper Room.

“James Carville is the most influential Democratic strategist of our time,” sophomore Diane Hoskins said.

The rest of the 2005 MSE Symposium’s slate of speakers includes Kate Michelman, the former president of NARAL Pro-Choice America; Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Polls; and Neal Baer, the executive producer of *Law and Order*.

Michelman will address Hopkins on Oct. 9 pm on the subject of grassroots campaigns.

## ERRATA

In the September 22 article “Students wary of revised penalties,” Dean Susan Boswell was mistitled as Dean of Student Life and Vice Provost. Her correct title is Dean of Student Life.

In the September 22 article “Water polo preps for ECACs,” the author’s name was misspelled. Her proper name is Alena Geffner-Mihlsten.

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NEWS

# New van policies to shorten schedule

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"When I applied to [Hopkins], the school booklet indicated that any pick-up and drop-off locations within a one-mile range of the Campus were allowed. That is what attracted me to come to this school," senior Yumi Miller said.

"The changes were thought to be minor inconveniences in the interest of providing better service overall," Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost Paula Burger said.

"Essentially, students are asked to do their shopping before 10 p.m. and to request escort service transport after 3 a.m. only for essential purposes. The goal is to provide van service which contributes to the safety of students," she added.

Some students, however, disagree with Burger's notion that errands can be taken care of during the evening.

"Most students are busy studying until library closes at 12 a.m. because they believe it is primary and shopping is secondary, so that is more likely to occur after 10 p.m. Super Fresh and other supermarket establishments are 24 hours for students like us because we need to buy things when we need them," Koo said.

"The review of the van service was prompted by student concerns voiced in town meetings and in e-mails to a number of administrators last year during the intense consideration of security issues," Burger said.

Burger reported that a working group, under direction of the Homewood Safety and Security Committee and chaired by engineering Professor James Fil, was established to discuss how to improve the shuttle service.

"The issue was addressed through the Homewood Safety and Security Committee, which consists of faculty, administrators, students and parents," Burger said.

"We have grown from a little four-van operation to putting out seven vans a night per shift, plus two yellow vans on weekends. That would probably be the upper limits of what we can put out there," Kibler said.

According to a document released by Kibler in the *News-Letter* titled "Escort Shuttle Route Service Listing," the Charles Village "weekender" Yellow van service will make design-



JOSEPHINE LEE/NEWS-LETTER

Policies regarding transport on security escort vans will change to favor study-related requests.

nated stops "at requested locations within Charles Village including commercial establishments," Wolman and McCoy Halls, and AMR residence halls to facilitate safe travel for students on Thursday through Saturday from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

It is unclear whether such "locations" include fraternities and off-campus residences at which parties may be occurring.

"During the late shift — after 10 p.m. — we usually get by with fewer drivers on weekdays. The route demands drop off pretty considerably after 10 p.m.," Kibler said.

"After 10 p.m., the focus shifts to students who need safe rides home from campus," Kibler said.

The termination of shuttle services until 3 a.m. was due to difficulties in finding drivers to work that late. Students who drive shuttles are typically unavailable at late hours, and for many of the shuttle drivers, driving is a second job, so they're unable to drive all night before wak-

ing up for their primary job.

In order to fully accommodate demand after 3 a.m., "[We would have to] pull our security officers away from their primary patrols that they've been assigned to," Kibler said.

The only other option, he added, would be to employ a contract service. "That would be hundreds of thousands of dollars more," Kibler said.

The current cost of running the escort van services is approximately \$400,000 per year, and estimates for the use of a contractor stand at an increase to \$800,000 per year.

"You have to have a limit somewhere," Kibler said.

Some students found fault with this assessment.

"If we are trying to tighten up security around here then why would Campus Safety and Security cut down on measures?" asked Alex Prentiss, senior.

Kibler said, "After 10 p.m., if the ride is school-related, Campus

Safety and Security will do whatever they have to do to help students. Even if a student gets stuck on campus after 3 a.m. and wants to go home, or a student is within the one-mile range and he or she has to get to campus, security will pick up and transport them after 3 a.m. But the regular security escort van service will stop providing service to students sharply at 3 a.m."

In an additional document released by Kibler to the *News-Letter*, it is stated, "[i]f a student is stranded a significant distance from campus and has no means to return to his/her residence, the student should call the security office."

"Instead of having on-demand escort vans drive around to pick up this person and that person, it would be better if Campus Safety and Security make designated stops and designated time schedules, more like a city bus," senior Caleb Henry said.

He added, "In that scenario, students' responsibilities are to walk to the stops and wait for the van. The operators would not be needed anymore. If Campus Safety and Security changes the escort van service policy, the big problem is that students are going to get smart about lying, saying, 'I am going to the house right next to the party.'"

As the changes are implemented, Campus Safety and Security will continue to evaluate the program. The popularity of the stops will factor largely into the assessment; Campus Safety and Security said that it will work to increase frequency according to demand.

"This is basically a work in progress. We will be monitoring the results of these changes to make sure that they are effective. If there are problems, we are all committed to addressing them," Burger said.

# Alcohol poisoning procedure unclear

Students vary in knowledge of policy

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Alian Joffe, medical director at the Health and Wellness Center, said, "The policy is labeled as a three strikes policy, but that doesn't do justice to the nuances; each situation is unique."

Sheppard added that the administration takes into consideration that students may arrive at a house already intoxicated. "Usually the student has been drinking in a couple of places, and you can't hold one party accountable," said Sheppard.

Students reported conflicting ideas of the University's stance on this issue. Traver Davis, president of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) has simply assumed that there is no procedure for handling this type of incident.

He said, "I know that they don't have a policy on this because I've never heard of it. And if they do have a policy on it, they don't do a good job of telling anyone about it."

"I know that I'm expected to do whatever I can to ensure the safety and health of guests at my party... I also understand that I can/will be held liable for the student's safety. What specifically that means, I'm not sure on," said Aaron Landgraf, the president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Kinsella said, "My interpretation of the school's policy on the subject is that if you are helping out another student, you are not going to be subject to penalty."

Most party hosts believe that they will be held responsible. This is especially for fraternities, which have received training from national headquarters. Yet not all will choose to bring someone to get medical attention when necessary.

Kinsella said, "I feel that if the school does not have a policy along those lines [that those who help the student will not be punished], then students and organizations having parties will forgo helping a drunk student in fear of penalty."

"I guess I give too much credit to Hopkins students and think that most of them are pre-med and would reach out and care for a student who was in harm's way," said Sheppard.

"Don't let some one die or be sick in your house. There should never be a hesitation, and if there is, I think we have a serious morality issue on our hands."

Freshmen seem even less informed of the policies and procedures regarding alcohol at Hopkins. In response to whether the school had informed her of what to do if someone was very sick, freshman Jackie Wagdalt replied, "No they haven't at all; I've heard from other

kids really."

Wagdalt added, "Honestly, I would call some friends first [before contacting Hopkins Emergency Response Unit]... and then if worse came to worst we would make the 911 call."

HERU, an important resource, is a student organization made up of qualified medical first responders. Over one fifth of their members are EMT certified, and they are dispatched through security.

Chris Massa, operations lieutenant of HERU, said, "What we do is, we arrive and do our initial assessment... after that we talk to the patient and try to understand if they have any allergies or are on any medications."

Following that history (concurrent to it) we get a set of vital signs and their ability to respond to our basic questions. Take all that information, put it together and we make a decision on whether they're intoxicated enough so that we need to take them to the hospital."

When HERU goes out to a call, the reports go into the individual student's medical records. Only the student has access unless they give leave. Even if they're minors, not even the deans or their parents can access their files."

"In Maryland, there are explicit laws that minors under eighteen can consent to their own care regarding contraception, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and drug and alcohol treatment," Joffe said.

Massa pointed out a nuance in Hopkins' alcohol policy: being intoxicated in the dorms is not against school policy, unlike drinking in the dorms; There's a difference between being drunk and getting caught actively drinking. That's a distinction of which people should be aware.

He added, "In general, for people that are concerned about their friends, the biggest concerns are if someone is throwing up way more than you think is acceptable. If someone has been vomiting actively for greater than ten minutes they definitely should be going to the hospital. If they're zonked out on the couch and it doesn't seem like they're breathing as deeply as they should be [they should also be brought in]."

The two simplest ways to die of alcohol intoxication are aspiration of vomit and respiratory depression and so the depressive effect of alcohol combined with lack of oxygen can actually cause a coma."

Investigation Coordinator Lieutenant Steve Ossmus said, "We work closely with the students and I want them to know that we're there for them: Our function is to make sure they get first aid and are taken care of."

# StuCo releases election results

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turnout for freshman class elections averaged about 46 percent, according to *News-Letter* reports.

The number of candidates running this year — 37 for seven positions — also signaled a slight increase in participation from previous years.

"The amount of candidates is unprecedented in recent memory, and I commend the freshmen for their participation," said Director of Student Life Jeff Groden-Thomas, who provides oversight for every student election.

Agarwal attributed the success of the election to aggressive advertising on campus, as well as to the implementation of a simpler system of online voting that allows students to access the voting Web site by entering their JHED IDs and passwords.

Under the guidance of Hopkins professor and electronic-voting expert Avi Rubin, Agarwal contracted a software development and consulting company called SmartLogic Solutions to design the new voting system, accessible online at <http://vote.jhu.edu>.

The company was newly formed this summer by two Hopkins graduate students, Yair Flicker and John Trupiano. Flicker, who graduated with the Class of 2005, said that his own experiences with previous voting systems designed by the BoE guided SmartLogic's choice of design.

"I personally have voted in some of BoE's previous voting systems where I had to enter long numbers from my J-Card," Flicker said.

"When we designed the website, we wanted it to be as simple as possible for students to use."

Flicker also said that the new voting system would avoid the pitfalls of requiring students to enter information like birthdays, which lead to the cancellation of last year's executive board and Young Trustees elections due to possible fraud.

Several freshman voters praised the new system's simplicity. "The online system was very easy," said Rahul Agarwal, who added that the class-wide e-mail directing freshman to the voting site was the most effective form of advertisement.

However, some students found the advertising to be vague on StuCo's purpose on campus. Although he voted in the elections, freshman Pradyumna Agaram said that he was unsure whether "the student council has much effect on campus. I don't know if they're really necessary."

Agarwal said that StuCo successes this year, including a well-attended information session and party at the HopStop, will help combat students' apathy about the council.

The class elections are also the first to be run under the new Committee on Student Elections, an independent branch of StuCo that runs student elections with the joint oversight of the StuCo executive president and Director of Student Involvement Jeff Groden-Thomas.

However, Agarwal said that the chairman of the CSE has not been

appointed yet, and that for the freshman class elections the committee has been run by ad-hoc members of StuCo in the absence of permanent chairs.

"Right now, I've been basically running the committee with a lot of help from other members," Agarwal said. "We wanted to wait until after the freshman representatives were elected to have COLA [Committee on Leadership Appointments] appoint the chairs."

Agarwal said that COLA will begin distributing applications — open to all students not currently serving on StuCo — for CSE positions shortly after all freshman class positions have been filled. Appointed members of the CSE will then select their chair.

Although Groden-Thomas and Agarwal may voice objections to decisions of the future CSE chair, Agarwal says he plans to keep his involvement minimal.

"I want to separate myself from the process as much as possible," he said. "The next elections are going to be run entirely by the CSE."

Agarwal expressed hopes that the structure of the CSE, which operates under more oversight from administrators than did the BoE, will help StuCo move past the legacy of previous botched elections.

Groden-Thomas agreed, "it helps that we're working [with the CSE] almost from scratch. After last year's events, we know what pitfalls to avoid."

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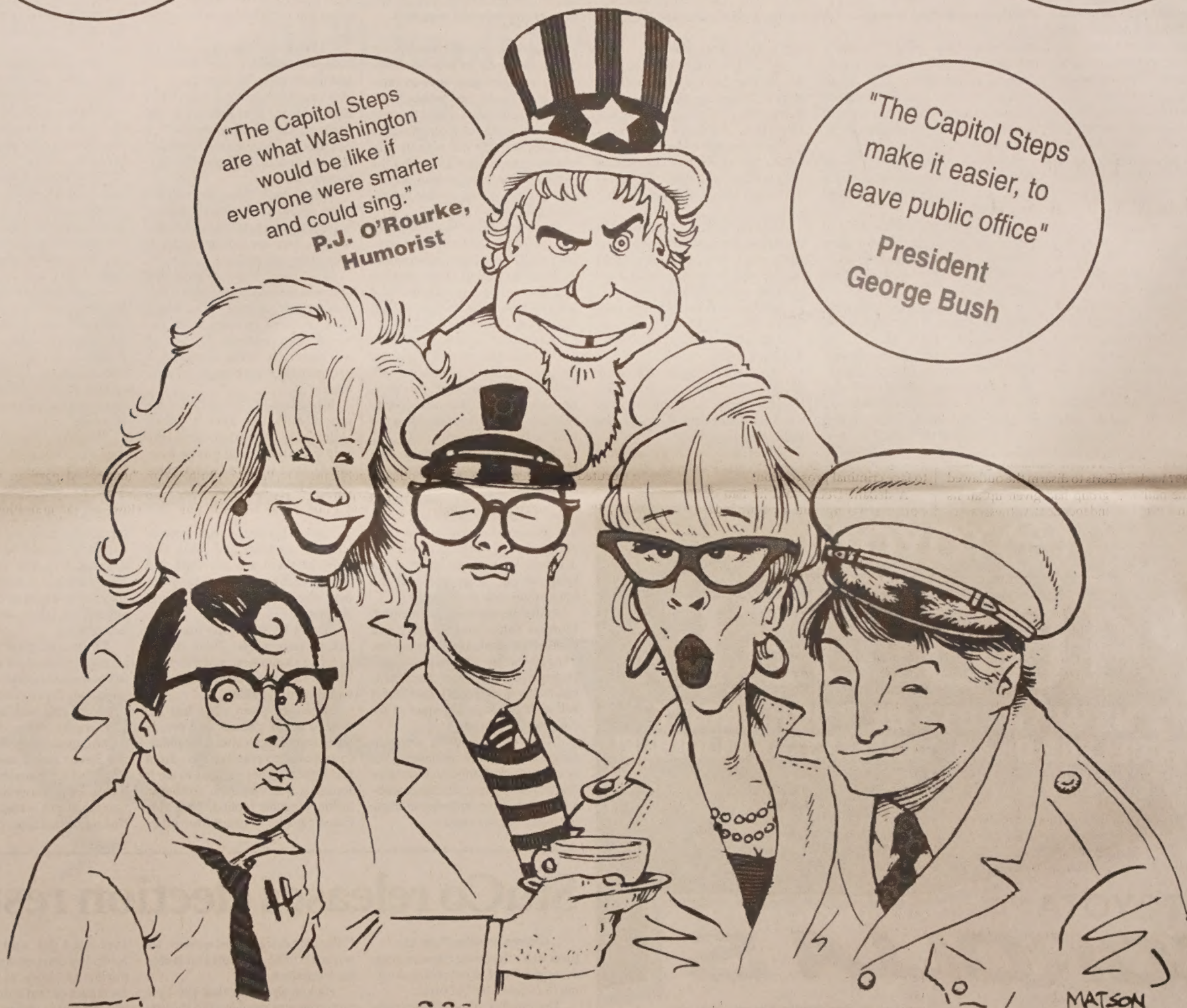
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NEWS

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS BRIEFS

Mayor Martin O'Malley launches gov. campaign

BALTIMORE (AP)—Mayor Martin O'Malley announced his campaign for governor Wednesday with a brief rally in Rockville near his boyhood home that served as a prelude to a formal announcement scheduled later in the day in Baltimore.

About 100 supporters attended the low-key rally outside the old county courthouse, where O'Malley was introduced by his mother, Barbara, who described him as "a good son, a caring father."

The Democratic mayor spoke for only about 15 minutes, outlining in broad terms some potential campaign themes such as protecting the environment and making college more affordable and talking of the progress Baltimore has made since he was elected mayor in 1999.

He did not mention Gov. Robert Ehrlich by name, but said, "I submit to you that Maryland has gone adrift" over the last four years. "It's time to get our state moving forward again."

O'Malley, 42, was joined at the Rockville rally by his wife and his two daughters and two sons.

As the state's largest county and the one that cast the most votes in the Democratic primary in 2002, Montgomery County will be a major battleground next year. Duncan starts out as a clear favorite in his home county, and O'Malley will be trying to hold down his opponent's victory margin there and overcome it with a strong showing in the Baltimore area.

—Bob Stuckey  
The Associated Press

Committee announces IRA disarmament in Belfast

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — An independent commission announced Monday that the Irish Republic Army had given up all its weapons — a crucial milestone on the path to peace in Northern Ireland — but the leader of the largest Protestant party demanded proof.

Britain and Ireland welcomed the long-demanded move, a key requirement of the 1998 peace accord, as an important step away from conflict.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, whose uncompromising Democratic Unionist Party represents most Protestants, accused both governments of "duplicitous and dishonesty" in accepting the claim.

John de Chastelain, a retired Canadian general who since 1997 has led efforts to disarm the outlawed IRA, said the outlawed group had given up all its weapons, and that two independent witnesses accepted by the IRA had viewed the secret disarmament work conducted by officials from Canada, Finland and the United States.

"We are satisfied that the arms decommissioning represents the totality of the IRA's arsenal," he said. The material included ammunition, rifles, machine guns, mortars, missiles, handguns and explosives, de Chastelain told a news conference.

The IRA followed up de Chastelain's announcement with a brief statement of its own that concluded: "The IRA leadership can now confirm that the process of putting our arms verifiably beyond use has been completed."

Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed the move.

"Successive British governments have sought final and complete decommissioning (disarmament) by the IRA for over 10 years," Blair said. "Failure to deliver it had become a major impediment to moving forward the peace process. Today it is finally accomplished. And we have made an important step in the transition from conflict to peace in Northern Ireland."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said he accepted the word of de Chastelain and his colleagues.

"These are men of integrity. Their words are clear, and they are welcome."

Paisley, however, said the IRA's claim amounted to the greatest "falsehood of the century."

The Democratic Unionists had demanded photographs, a detailed record and a Paisley-approved Protestant clergyman to serve as an independent witness.

— Paisley Dodds  
The Associated Press

Merck executive testifies on Vioxx warning label

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Fearing a warning about Vioxx's cardiac risks would hurt the painkiller's sales, Merck & Co. battled with federal regulators for two years to keep the information out of the "warnings" section of the package insert, the company's top marketing official testified Monday.

Under questioning by plaintiff's attorney Chris Seeger, David W. Anstice acknowledged Merck forecast a \$500 million drop in sales for the \$2.5 billion-a-year blockbuster drug if Merck lost its bid to instead put information about heart attack risks in the insert's less-urgent "precautions" section.

It was during those negotiations between Merck and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that Frederick "Mike" Humeston suffered a heart attack, two months after he began taking Vioxx, said Seeger.

Humeston is suing Merck in the second product liability trial over Vioxx, which he blames for his Sept. 18, 2001, heart attack. Merck, which is facing 5,000 such lawsuits, says the painkiller wasn't to blame.

Scolnick told Merck colleagues in a Feb. 25, 2002, e-mail it would be a miracle if FDA agreed to put the warning in the "precautions" section.

Humeston's lawyers are expected to wrap up their case this week, after which Merck is to present its witnesses to the seven-woman, three-man jury.

—John Curran  
The Associated Press



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted by a Texas grand jury on Wednesday after being charged for conspiring violations of fundraising laws.

Indicted House Majority Leader steps down

BY LARRY MARGASAK  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted by a Texas grand jury Wednesday on a charge of conspiring to violate political fundraising laws, forcing him to temporarily step aside from his GOP post. He is the highest-ranking member of Congress to face criminal prosecution.

A defiant DeLay said he had done nothing wrong and denounced the Democratic prosecutor who pursued the case as a "partisan fanatic." He said, "This is one of the weakest, most baseless indictments in American history. It's a sham."

Nonetheless, DeLay's temporary departure and the prospect of a criminal trial for one of the Republicans' most visible leaders reverberated throughout the GOP-run Congress, which was already struggling with ethics questions surrounding its Senate leader.

Republicans quickly moved to fill the

void, while voicing polite support for DeLay. Speaker Dennis Hastert named Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt to take over most of DeLay's leadership duties.

Ronnie Earle, the Democratic prosecutor in Austin who led the investigation, denied politics was involved. "Our job is to prosecute abuses of power and to bring those abuses to the public," he said. He has noted previously that he has prosecuted many Democrats in the past.

DeLay, 58, was indicted on a single felony count of conspiring with two political associates. The two previously had been charged with the same conspiracy count. They are John Colyandro, former executive director of a Texas political action committee formed by DeLay, and Jim Ellis, who heads DeLay's national political committee.

The indictment stems from a plan DeLay helped set in motion in 2001 to help Republicans win control of the Texas House in the 2002 elections for the first time since Reconstruction.

The grand jury accused the men of conspiring to route corporate donations from DeLay's Texas committee to the Republican Party in Washington, then returning the money back to Texas legislative candidates. It was a scheme intended to evade a state law outlawing corporate donations going to candidates, the indictment said.

The indictment also mentioned another Republican figure, President Bush's campaign political director Terry Nelson, though it did not charge him with any wrongdoing.

The grand jury alleged Nelson received the money — along with a list of Texas lawmakers who were to get donations — from the Texas committee while working at the Republican National Committee. Nelson did not return calls to his office seeking comment.

DeLay and others conspired to "engage in conduct that would constitute the offense of knowingly making a political contribution in violation" of Texas law, the indictment charged. However, it

did not specify how DeLay was involved.

DeLay, whose conduct on separate issues was criticized by the House ethics committee last year, was unrelenting in his criticism of Earle. He suggested the district attorney had promised not to prosecute him and then changed course under pressure from Democrats and criticism from a newspaper in Texas.

The majority leader derided Earle as an "unabashed partisan zealot" and a "rogue district attorney."

However, the grand jury's foreman, William Gibson, told The Associated Press that Earle didn't pressure members to indict DeLay. "Ronnie Earle didn't indict him. The grand jury indicted him," Gibson said in an interview at his home.

Gibson, 76, a retired sheriff's deputy, said of DeLay: "He's probably doing a good job. I don't have anything against him. Just something happened."

DeLay's lawyer immediately sought to protect the leader from further embarrassment, even as they pressed to learn the evidence against their client.

Suspected al-Qaida leader convicted in Spain

BY MAR ROMAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A Syrian-born businessman was sentenced to 27 years in prison Monday after being convicted of leading a terrorist cell and conspiring to commit murder in the Sept. 11 attacks. He was cleared of a more serious charge in Europe's biggest trial of suspected al-Qaida members.

Another man accused of helping one of the hijackers set up a key meeting was acquitted of being an accessory to murder but was convicted of collaborating with a terrorist group. Sixteen other people were convicted of collaborating with or belonging to the terrorist cell.

A third suspect facing specific Sept. 11 charges over detailed video he shot of the World Trade Center and other U.S. landmarks was cleared of all charges.

The three main suspects — Imad Yarkas, Ghasoub al-Abrash Ghalyoun and Driss Chebli — had been charged as accessories to mass murder and could have faced sentences of more than 74,000 years each — 25 for each of the 2,973 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Prosecutor Pedro Rubira had asked for what he called "exemplary sentences" to show terror could be fought in court, not with Guantanamo-style detention camps.

Yarkas led a cell that raised money and recruited men for Osama bin Laden's terrorist group and "turned itself over completely to fulfilling the sinister designs decided by al-Qaida," according to the three-judge panel of the National Court.

But it said, "the only thing proven is Yarkas' conspiracy with the suicide terrorist" Mohamed Atta and other members of the al-Qaida cell based in Hamburg, Germany that carried out the Sept. 11 attacks.

Twenty-one other people also stood

trial but on charges not directly related to Sept. 11. Of those, 16 were convicted of belonging to or collaborating with a terrorist organization and five were acquitted.

One of the 16 was Tayssir Alouni, a correspondent for the Arab TV network Al-Jazeera. He was convicted of collaboration and sentenced to seven years in jail.

"It was a black day in the history of Spanish justice," Al-Jazeera news editor Ahmed al-Sheikh said, adding that the ver-

dict would be appealed.

Alouni, a Syrian with Spanish citizenship, interviewed bin Laden shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. He pleaded innocent and denied ever belonging to al-Qaida.

Yarkas' lawyer, Jacobo Teijelo, also said it was "absurd" for the judges to convict his client of conspiracy because that charge would apply to a crime that was not committed.

He said the judges, acting on what he called flimsy evidence such as wire-tapped telephone conversations that

they themselves said were at times obtained improperly, were desperate for some kind of conviction against Yarkas, given their lack of evidence for a murder conviction.

But he said he was leaning against filing an appeal because it might be futile.

Jose Luis San Pio, whose 26-year-old daughter Silvia was the only Spaniard killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, called the verdict a "surprise," saying he had expected harsher sentences.

Abu Ghraib abuser faces sentencing

BY T.A. BADGER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — Army Pfc. Lynndie England, whose smiling poses in photos of detainee abuse at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison made her the face of the scandal, was convicted Monday by a military jury on six of seven counts.

England, 22, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy, four counts of mistreating detainees and one count of committing an indecent act. She was acquitted on a second conspiracy count.

The jury of five male Army officers took about two hours to reach its verdict. Her case now moves to the sentencing phase, which will be heard by the same jury beginning Tuesday.

England tried to plead guilty in May to the same counts she faced this month in exchange for an undisclosed sentencing cap, but a judge threw out the plea deal. She now faces a maximum of nine years in prison.

England, wearing her dark green dress uniform, stood at attention Monday as the verdict was read by the jury foreman. She showed no obvious emotion afterward.

Asked for comment after the verdict, defense lawyer Capt. Jonathan Crisp said, "The only reaction I can say is, 'I understand.'"

England's trial is the last for a group of nine Army reservists — including three from Virginia — charged with mistreating prisoners at Abu Ghraib in Iraq, a scandal that badly damaged the United States' image in the Muslim world despite quick condemnation of the abuse by President Bush.

Two other troops were convicted in trials and the remaining six made plea deals. Several of those soldiers testified at England's trial.

Prosecutors used graphic photos of England to support their contention that she was a key figure in the abuse conspiracy. One photo shows England holding a naked detainee on a leash. In others, she smiles and points to prisoners in humiliating poses.

The conspiracy acquittal came on a count pertaining to the leash incident; she was found guilty of a maltreatment count stemming from the same incident.

Beyond the sordid photos, prosecutors pointed to England's statement to Army investigators in January 2004 that

the mistreatment was done to amuse the U.S. guards at Abu Ghraib.

"The accused knew what she was doing," said Capt. Chris Graveline, the lead prosecutor. "She was laughing and joking. ... She is enjoying, she is participating, all for her own sick humor."

Crisp countered that England was only trying to please her soldier boyfriend, then-Cpl. Charles Graner Jr., labeled the abuse ringleader by prosecutors.

"She was a follower, she was an individual who was smitten with Graner," Crisp said. "She just did whatever he wanted her to do."

England, from Fort Ashby, W. Va., has said that Graner, now serving a ten-year sentence, fathered her young son.

The defense argued that England suffered from depression and that she has an overly compliant personality, making her a heedless participant in the abuse.

England's earlier attempt to plead guilty under a deal with prosecutors was rejected by Col. James Pohl, the presiding judge. Pohl declared a mistrial during the sentencing phase when testimony by Graner contradicted England's guilty plea.



THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

One-mile radius

The need for change in the Hopkins security shuttle system has been clear from the start; under no conditions should students be waiting 30 minutes to an hour for an escort shuttle to arrive. As wait times increase, students become more likely to walk rather than linger, thus exposing themselves to potential harm. If students decide to wait for the shuttle, they are occasionally left stranded in what could be an unsafe area.

The administration has recognized the concerns voiced by students as to the failures and inconsistencies of the escort van service. On Monday, the University will increase the fixed route to provide students with a ride to popular restaurants and shopping locations close to campus. But the celebration over the changes in shuttle service will be short-lived; at 10 p.m. on Monday, students will no longer be able to request a shuttle from an off-campus residence to another off-campus residence, shopping center or restaurant.

While the University has on one hand increased the service to shopping centers, they have in effect established a policy that no longer guarantees shuttle service to and from any points within a one-mile radius of campus without concern for the student's destination.

Instead of providing an escort service whose main concern is Hopkins students' safety, Capt. George Kibler stated, "The purpose of the escort service as themed by the administration and Security Department is to provide a safe transportation service to students for school-related needs."

The University has yet to define what constitutes "school-related needs." In doing so, they have created a poorly explicated policy that does not present a clear idea of the changes being made. Will students requesting a shuttle to a fraternity house at which a party is being held be turned away? What about a student who needs to pick up prescription medication from RiteAid after 10 p.m.?

At a university where students are, for the time being, not given the option of living on-campus for four years, the administration has an obligation to do all that it can to ensure the safety of the students who are forced to live off-campus. If this means providing the students with a "full-blown taxi service," then that is what must be done. Come 10 p.m. Monday night, a student should still have a safe means of visiting his or her friends. A student's safety must come first in the eyes of the University. In the past few weeks administrators have expressed concern over students' well-being in regard to alcohol consumption. When will the University express an equal concern for students' ability to arrive safely at a given destination?

By not making it clear whether off-route shuttles and the Charles Village "weekender" will make stops at locations where parties are being held, the University risks having students interpret the policy incorrectly. The guidelines as to when a student will or will not be able to rely on a Hopkins shuttle remain blurred.

The policy changes seem to be creating a situation that will deter students from using the security shuttles for non-school related use. Student must read the fine print on the new policy: "If a student is stranded a significant distance from campus and has no means to return to his/her residence, the student should call the security office at (410) 516-4600." What use is a policy that states that shuttle service for non-school related activity ends at 10 p.m., yet also leaves ambiguous circumstances under which the fine print reveals that a student can still rely on the security department to pick him up?

Regardless of the announced changes in the escort service, students should under no circumstance be forced to walk to or from a location off-campus if they feel unsafe. The university must not refuse service to any student — even if it is after 10 p.m. — if the student's safety is of any concern.

Eliminate alcohol poisoning

There is no room for ambiguity regarding alcohol poisoning. At the moment, the University policy on alcohol is rife with uncertainty nearly to the point of negligence. Several administrators deserve credit for using progressive methods to stem alcohol abuse and binge drinking. But the remains of an outdated don't-ask-don't-tell policy have left enough room for students to seriously consider not taking a passed-out friend to the hospital.

Last year the *News-Letter* reported that instances of alcohol poisoning were on the rise among the freshman class. Administrators may not be too far off when they claim a direct correlation between increasing off-campus disturbances and the consumption of alcohol at dangerous levels. In the rush to ease tensions between students and local residents, many have failed to recognize that the problem goes far beyond noise complaints and public urination.

Consider the following scenario: An underage freshman girl attends a party off-campus, drinks heavily and passes out on a couch. The girl's friends instinctively try to wake her up, but with no luck. They then begin to carry her to the hospital, all the while fearing that they may face repercussions for underage drinking and allowing their friend to pass out. At the front door, the hosts of the party stop the girls and refuse to allow them passage to the hospital, claiming that they will face the greatest of consequences if the University discovers that they provided minors with alcohol.

This situation and others similar to it are far too common. Though it is easy to claim that there should be no hesitation to take a potential alcohol poisoning victim to the hospital, a fundamental ethical dilemma exists: It's either them or us. It is time for administrators to take a definitive stance on whether or not the hosts of a party will face punishment by the University for providing alcohol to a minor who ends up in the hospital.

Late last year, an upper-level administrator commented that underage drinking would always take place, "whether or not we try to stop it." If this is the stance of the University, or even small portions of the adminis-

tration, students who host off-campus parties cannot reasonably be held accountable for the drinking habits of partygoers.

Furthermore, curtailing underage drinking among students would effectively kill what little remains of undergraduate life. Alcohol is a part of Hopkins' social life. A tacit recognition that underage students will drink no matter what must stand. But the following changes need to be made as soon as possible.

First, it must be clear what will happen to an individual who gets his stomach pumped at the hospital. Yes, consequences are necessary, but they should be interventional rather than punitive. Administrators have the responsibility to make this distinction, and expecting students to wait until after the ordeal is over to consider penalties is simply naïve. To this end, a separate three-strike system is needed for individuals, as opposed to that applied to fraternities and hosts of parties to sensitively address the differences between a night of fun and a serious problem with alcohol.

Additionally, fraternities should not be held responsible for the poor judgement of an individual — whether underage or not — who drinks too much and is sent to the hospital, unless a pattern develops. Hosts will likely face sanctions from Baltimore City Police if they are caught providing alcohol to minors, so it will only endanger students more for the University to add further disincentives to take them to the hospital. If every weekend students are showing up at the hospital from the same houses, then intervention should be considered. It's time to take a close look at our alcohol policies and make a desperately needed change.

The fundamental difficulty is to eliminate the choice to leave a drunk friend to sober up rather than taking him or her to the hospital. This is primarily a student-to-student issue; if a friend is passing out, he should be escorted to the hospital without hesitation. At the moment, this choice is subject to debate. Before students can make this dramatic paradigm shift, the University must take the lead.

A victory for StuCo

In the wake of a year characterized by campus election failures, Student Council Executive President Atin Agarwal, the newly formed Committee on Student Elections (CSE) and the Class of 2009 deserve accolades for a successful freshman class election. At 64.2 percent, the turnout in these elections has improved dramatically over the previous five years, during which turnout at freshman class elections has hovered around 46 percent.

Much of the credit for this high rate of participation goes to the designers of StuCo's simplified voting system, which both encourages students to vote and creates safeguards against fraud. On the new user-friendly system, designed by Hopkins grad students under the guidance of electronic-voting expert Avi Rubin, students cast their ballots by entering their JHED IDs and passwords. Luckily for the CSE, these passwords are far more secure than the birth dates required in last year's botched executive board and Young Trustee elections, which were easily found on <http://www.thefacebook.com>.

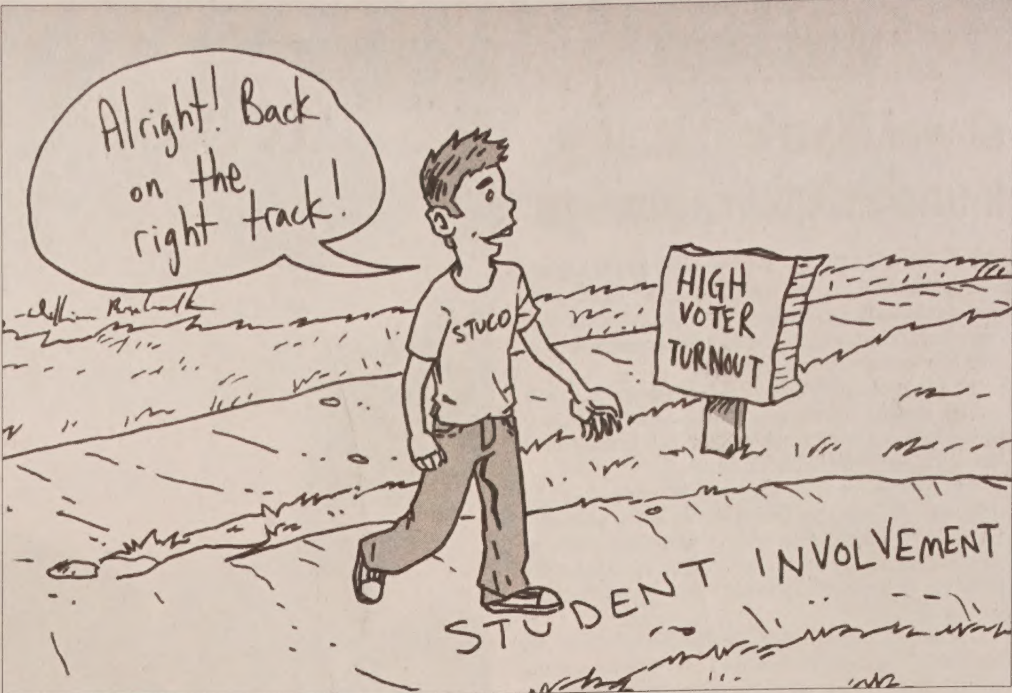
The improvements under the CSE are a welcome departure from the now-defunct Board of Elections' tumultuous legacy. But even so, the CSE must not become complacent after one round of successful elections.

Oversight for this round of elections came largely from Agarwal himself, which sets a precedent that StuCo must avoid in the future. The executive president should not only quickly yield his control over the logistics of the elections to the CSE; his participation should be as rare as possible. With fraud so recent in Hopkins election history, students need to be quickly reassured that increased StuCo involvement in the process will not come at the expense of the process' legitimacy.

Freshman class elections are likely the easiest to yield a positive result, particularly with the combination of an advertising blitz and the eagerness of new students. However, it may not do the same for upperclassmen. Unlike the Class of 2009, many older students are disillusioned with StuCo as a body, not simply deterred from voting due to difficult systems and lack of advertising. These students need to be energized by consistent StuCo successes to prove that the real progress comes after the elections are complete.

StuCo is right to be pleased with these results. But the battle is still uphill, as their task is bigger than just energizing freshman voters: They must give students something to vote for. There are already 744 students invested in this vision. Now let's get the rest.

WILLIAM PARSCHALK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial attack on MSE unfounded

The irony of having the fundraising efforts of the 2005 MSE Symposium criticized by a newspaper that has itself experienced financial problems notwithstanding, the editorial that appeared in last week's *News-Letter* was peppered with untruths and unfounded criticism directed at the co-chairs, not at the Symposium itself. While last year, the editors of the *News-Letter* stated that it was "nice to see more brain in the symposium lineup and less vitriolic brawn," this year, the editors have decided that intellectualism has little "drawing power" and what the Symposium needs are celebrities. If only this new standard had been communicated to the Symposium staff, we would have considered spending the entire block grant on securing the cast from VH1's *Celebrity Fit Club*. Maybe then we could receive a glowing review from the *News-Letter*.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this editorial, however, was the preemptive and mean-spirited nature of the attack on the Symposium. Not once in the past two years has an editorial about the Symposium occurred before the Symposium had started, nor have the chairs been named specifically and their credentials questioned. Nothing better illustrated the baseless venom and anti-intellectual attacks that appeared on last week's Opinions page than the clumsy and humorless cartoon penned by Ann Anguilo. It is sad to note that the *News-Letter*, a publication that has

long criticized the "throat" culture at Hopkins, has now become its resounding voice.

Will Ares  
MSE Symposium Co-Chair

Loan consolidation not a losing game

Katherine Brewer ("A costly mistake," Sept. 22) misunderstands the opportunity for consolidation of federal student loans that Johns Hopkins vigorously promoted through many media to students and parents during the 2004/2005 academic year. Because we knew that interest rates would increase for any variable rate loans taken for the academic year that officially begins on July 1, 2005, we encouraged students to consolidate and fix the interest rate on federal loans taken and received before that date. Many students and parents pursued this option, consolidating loans while

still in school before June 30, saving thousands of dollars.

Even if renewal financial aid awards for this academic year had been mailed earlier (the application deadline is April 15), by federal statute new loans could not be included in the consolidation at the lower fixed rate, which expired June 30. In other words, only loans taken for prior academic years could be included in this low fixed-rate consolidation process, which ended June 30, 2005. Rates have gone up as of July 1, 2005, and while students and parents can still consolidate their federal loans, it would be at a higher fixed interest rate.

The Office of Student Financial Services strives to put the student in the center of all our decision-making for communication, policy and process. Our task is clearly to help those who need it to receive the financing and information that will enable them to stay enrolled, as possible within the rules and resources available.

Dr. Ellen Frishberg  
Director, Student Financial Services

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NEWS-LETTER

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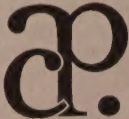
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News-Letter

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# OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

## Lessons from intelligent design

This article is second in a series of three exploring the theory of intelligent design. The final installment will appear in two weeks.

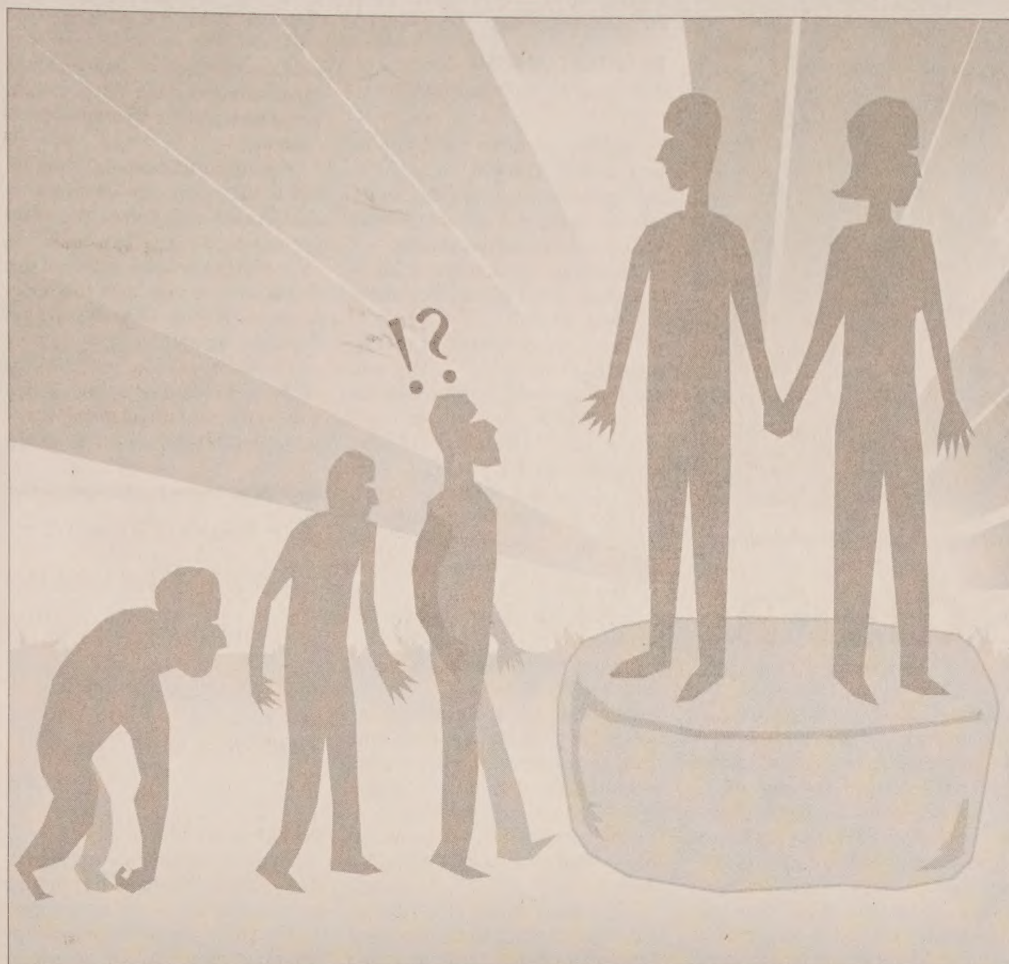
Within academia, the temptation to dismiss intelligent design outright must be irresistible. As it stands, the theory, which attributes certain biological developments to the intervention of an ambiguous higher power, lacks both unifying concepts and empirical foundations. Am I missing something here, or aren't those the two essential criteria of any scientific theory?

However, though this may sound crazy coming from a science major, we cannot cast intelligent design aside. Not yet.

Right now, the best thing that the scientific community can do is study the phenomenon of intelligent design's sudden popularity. Though the movement has plenty of the signs of the typical right-wing cabal, from shadowy thinktank backing to superficially benign partisan endorsements, it is more: a defining cultural statement and manifestation of our society's direction. Only when serious science begins to realize why the doctrine has gained traction despite its dubious teachings can any progress against it be made.

On a very basic level, intelligent design conflates two of the impulses that are strongest in modern America: faith in God and trust in modern science. In a country that believes in the virgin birth and re-elects a born again Christian but has been inundated with wireless technology and advanced medical treatment, any solution that includes both concepts has to be sellable.

Yet how can you have science without experiments? Simple—you can have jargon that sounds like science. On my request, the conservative *Discovery Institute* mailed me two articles about the "implications of theoretical falsification" and the "demarcation of disciplines." These arguments rope in everything from extraterrestrial life to lineage patterns, but there is no process, no unified hypothesis nor any data. Just look at names like "Discovery Institute" or even the term "intelligent design" itself. Funny how positive, technical-sounding word choice can



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER

hide a lack of substance.

Then there is the free speech issue, the claim among intelligent design circles that this is a fight for diversity of opinions—even though the experts at a research university like Johns Hopkins think differently. Like other professors I have talked to, philosophy professor Peter Achinstein gave me a decisive “no” when I asked if this was a matter of civil liberties. To him, intelligent design is more the product of an empowered fundamentalism in contemporary politics.

What we neo-Darwinians, as the *Discovery Institute* likes to demonize us, often overlook is that intelligent design is not just a cynical policy tool. Responding to my last column on intelligent design, one reader de-

clared that it is a diverse movement that will render Darwin obsolete. There are still those who view Darwinism as an affront to human dignity, or honestly hail intelligent design as a breakthrough.

But that is not to disregard the ideological force of this doctrine. Don't forget the unified support that

American religious conservatives have lent the movement, or how its unexpected growth spurred leaders of the Catholic Church to challenge Pope John Paul II's essential support of scientific evolution.

So how does science fight back? As Achinstein noted, intelligent design cannot be treated as an item in a serious scientific debate. Without any sort of empirical framework, it would at most be relevant to dis-

putes over the philosophical or social reception of contemporary science—not a balanced biology curriculum.

It is fine for museums to instruct their employees to ignore questions related to creationism, as is becoming a standard policy. It is also a legitimate idea, as another of my readers suggested, for teachers to “explain why science now rejects [intelligent design] and all other versions of creationism” in order to cut misconceptions at the bud. Yet modern biology needs to fill this void with more than experiments.

At its core, intelligent design melds God, human purpose and free speech with science in a seemingly appealing dogma that is an insult to all four. Perhaps a social problem that has left only one-fourth of the United States believing the validity of Darwin's explanations needs a social solution. That is what I will outline in my next column in this series. But just to give academia a heads-up, this struggle for survival must be fought not in the universities but on the front lines of mass culture.

First, however, the term “intelligent design” has to go. Considering how those two words give an exacting, enlightened air to a theory devoid of intellectual rigor, it's time for a more appropriate name. Does “fad creationism” work better?

—Patrick Kennedy is a sophomore chemistry and political science major from Watchung, N.J.

### PATRICK KENNEDY OPPOSITION, INC.

## The citizens' sacrifice

Last Thursday, the MSE Symposium kicked off their year by hosting James Carville in a packed Shriver Hall. Though I disagreed with his political message, Carville hit home a very important point: In a time of war, building debt, national disaster, oil shortage and the constant threat of terrorism, Americans have not been asked by their government to make enough personal sacrifices for the good of the nation.

Not until after I had started writing this article, a month after Hurricane Katrina, did President Bush finally mention the word “conservation.” As Bush explained this week, “We can all pitch in by being better conservers of energy.”

In the 1960s, Kennedy challenged Americans to “ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” Unfortunately, this rhetoric has not been promoted by the Bush administration until now. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our oil shortage and budget deficits have been transformed from problems into crises.

Does this mean our government should raise taxes and ration gasoline? Of course not! Taxing and rationing are signs of laziness. They represent a lack of creativity and control on behalf of the government. These measures would also hurt the economy, stifle growth and stunt innovation at the time we need it most. Rather, the administration needs to be frank with the American people about the sacrifices we need to make.

Our current oil crisis is a simple problem of supply and demand. Our consumption of oil is outpacing our ability to replenish our reserves.

On the supply side, the administration has strived to secure more oil. In the long term, they have

passed an energy bill which will diversify our energy, create new oil refineries, begin building nuclear plants, and take better advantage of clean coal technology. The administration's short-term decisions to relax EPA rules, release oil from the national and international strategic reserves and encourage OPEC to increase production have also been wise.

However, little has been asked of the American people in terms of reducing our demand for oil.

Though Bush has alerted us that we can help, he has still failed to ask for the specific sacrifices we need to make. When there is a drought, the government outlines steps to conserve water. We are told to water our plants at night, turn off faucets whenever possible and take short showers instead of baths. We are now experiencing an oil and gasoline drought, and similar requests need to be made.

The government needs to tell us that it is our patriotic duty for urban workers to take public transportation and neighbors and co-workers to carpool. They need to tell us that it is in our national interest to turn our thermostats up a couple degrees. And this administration needs to outline specific sacrifices that can be made by its citizenry to end the oil crisis.

However, the oil shortage is not the only crisis this country faces. Though the U.S.'s record deficits had been on their way down, the new costs of rebuilding in the wake

of Katrina and Rita combined with the lost tax revenue from the economic damage will likely bring the budget deficit to as high as \$500 billion.

Again, here, the President has not asked anyone to make sacrifices. Not only has he cut taxes for all Americans, but he has increased funding for security, education, defense, research, prescription drugs and healthcare. If President Bush is going to continue to make promises, such as making Social Security a better deal and rebuilding the Gulf Region, it is going to require sacrifices on the part of American citizens.

Americans can start by giving up some of the pork barrel treats brought home by their congressmen. The federal government spends \$23 billion annually on special interest projects such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame or combatting teenage “goth” culture in Blue Springs, Miss. Americans need to give up these projects or pay for them through higher local and state taxes.

If we work together in cutting unnecessary and unneeded programs, we can not only pay for Katrina we can also begin to pay down our debts as well.

A good president is measured by how much he does for his people—how much he improves education, reduces crime, increases the job rate and lowers taxes. A great president, on the other hand, is measured by his ability to mobilize the creativity and good will of their citizenry in order to lift the nation and overcome great obstacles. In times like these, we're in need of greatness. —Marc Goldwein is a junior political science and economics major from Merion, Pa.

### Bush should specify the steps Americans can take to solve our oil and budget crises.

## Campus media should fight apathy

Throughout my three years at Hopkins, the *News-Letter* has entreated students to challenge the complacency and indifference that have grown to characterize our undergraduates. From encouraging student leader activism to asking other to simply attend events or vote in StuCo elections, the *News-Letter* has long emphasized the importance of involvement. Ending apathy on campus has become a battle. In taking this position, the *News-Letter* has been a voice—not just of the students but also of an outside authority speaking to students.

Encouraging student involvement was and remains an important message, and it is one in which I wholeheartedly believe. As someone who has been politically active on this campus, I've been constantly disappointed by the lack of support and interest my causes receive from my peers. I was always impressed that the *News-Letter* took its role in campus life seriously.

As a major forum for ongoing discussion at Hopkins, the *News-Letter* has the legitimacy and circulation needed to influence student opinion. In promoting us to a higher level of engagement with our community, it has held students to an elevated standard of collective responsibility.

In light of the importance the *News-Letter* holds in the Hopkins community, a number of its recent decisions have disappointed me.

If the *News-Letter* truly wants to engage students and fight apathy, then their editors' recent decision to dramatically reduce their coverage of student events suggests a major lack of foresight and responsibility. Articles on events that do not feature celebrities are now considered to be too boring, interesting only the handful of students who attend.

In light of the broader Homewood initiative to foster a greater sense of community, it is surprising the *News-Letter* is not more engaged with students and administration in accomplishing this goal. As a newspaper, it has the basic obligation and responsibility to report what's going on around campus. The failure to support students who are getting stuff done only pander to campus apathy rather than discouraging it. In time, what vibrant life exists on campus will become less visible, and student disinterest will become further entrenched.

Furthermore, in a recent editorial, the MSE symposium was criticized for its failed fundraising efforts, resulting in a group of speakers with little drawing power. While conceding that the lineup will provide intellectually stimulating con-

tent, the editors implied that Hopkins students are simply not interested in attending events that do not feature big-name speakers. In so doing, the *News-Letter*'s editorial board favored celebrity over substance. Students, the *News-Letter* concluded, want to be entertained rather than educated. However, in tracing the weakness of the symposium to its highly intellectual content, its editors severely underestimated Hopkins students.

Last year the *News-Letter* lamented weak attendance at lectures by *New York Times* Executive Editor Bill Keller and world-renowned political economist Francis Fukuyama. This year, instead of questioning why students are not more interested in attending these events or offering constructive ways

in which the various symposia on campus can appeal to a broader audience, the *News-Letter* is admitting defeat and

accepting the average Hopkins student's image as a disengaged sideliners.

In an April 30, 2004 op-ed, sophomore Francesca Hansen wrote, “Apathy” is not an innate quality of Hopkins students, but an ingrained laziness that comes after a self-fulfilling prophecy of lowered expectations.”

If Hansen is correct, then the *News-Letter*, in its recent reduction in events coverage and criticism of the MSE lineup, is sending us conflicting messages.

If its editors supposedly want to reduce undergraduate apathy, the *News-Letter* cannot simultaneously lower its expectations of students. In light of these contradictions, their recent position begs the question, where exactly do we stand in the *News-Letter*'s eyes?

The *News-Letter* should not see itself not as a repository for criticism of students and their leaders. Rather, it should fulfill a broader role that can speak constructively to the student body.

In speaking to students on important issues like campus apathy, the *News-Letter* engages itself as an active member in the discussion. With this authority comes the responsibility to develop clear, consistent messages.

If its editors decide to push criticism in every direction, the *News-Letter* will undermine its role on campus as a legitimate guiding voice for the Hopkins community. It must first clearly define its expectations for the student body. As students, we deserve to be held to a higher standard, but so does the *News-Letter*. Will it rise to the challenge?

—Claire Edington is a senior public health and French major from Wayland, Mass.

## Sheehan's misguided message

Last week, “Iraq Mom” Cindy Sheehan spoke to a crowd at Shriver Hall and called for President Bush to immediately

withdraw from Iraq. Sheehan's tours, constant protests and camping out in front of Bush residences need to end. Sheehan displays obvious irreverence by dishonoring her son's sacrifice. Her “peace” campaigns are mere media circuses. Interspersed between Sheehan's shriekings are claims of fallacies and deceit on the part of the government and poorly thought-out plans of retreat—namely, her “pack up and leave” theory.

Cindy Sheehan wants answers. She wants to know why her son died. She wants to hear the government say that this war is for oil, not for freedom and democracy. She wants the troops to come home so that other families do not have to deal with the same tragic loss she has faced.

She is a distraught mother, a saddened wife and a grief-stricken citizen of America. However, she is nothing more. It seems that many people are giving her a bit more “ear time” than she deserves. Her platform of political theories is, to put it directly, cracked.

“How many innocent Iraqi people have to die before the citi-

zens of America wake up and know that our government is a ‘bad guy’?” Sheehan said in her essay, “A Lie of Historic Proportions.”

Some people may agree that the U.S. is needlessly interfering with the affairs of other nations, but that is irrelevant now that we're in Iraq. I loathe Bush like any other average-intelligence blue stater, but America is at war. Whether wrong or right, the decision to interfere with another

be fully appreciated, instead of being caught in the middle of a moral battle between Sheehan's supporters and Bush's advocates.

Many soldiers feel that Sheehan has acted inappropriately by claiming she speaks for all the men and women in the armed forces. As one anti-Sheehan website, <http://www.soldiersagainstsheehan.blogspot.com>, noted, many soldiers are “flabbergasted that you dishonor his [Casey Sheehan's] service by suggesting his death allows you to speak for us. You do not speak for us.”

Do I think this war was justified? No.

Do I think we should have gone to war? No.

Do I think we should bring our troops home immediately? No.

The “pack up and come home” theory that Sheehan favors would never work. Iraq's political, social and economic powers lie not in the hands of the Iraqi government, but rather in those of the American military. If we withdrew, Iraq would become a huge mess. We cannot leave and place the burden to rebuild their country on the shoulders of the Iraqi people when we know they are unprepared to do so.

—Samata Kamireddy is a junior neuroscience major from Hockessin, Del.

### SAMATA KAMIREDDY GUEST COLUMN

country's problems has already been made. The only thing that can be done is to support our troops in an allied fashion. Sheehan is creating discord among Americans by using sentiment and emotion to cloud rationale.

Another problem with Sheehan is her finger pointing. Thousands of American soldiers are fighting in Iraq in the name of the American government, yet Sheehan dwells on Bush's inability to lead a nation. Continuing to dwell on the government and what now may seem like a corrupt dictatorship is pointless. The American troops need unified support. The troops need to know that when they come home they will



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Sophomore Stephanie Carr can now download the Harry Potter stories as digital audiobooks online.

## Harry Potter goes digital

BY DAVID YUI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

For the first time, fans of the wildly popular Harry Potter series now have a chance to listen to their favorite Hogwarts stories narrated in digital format. The series author, J.K. Rowling, announced on her Web site that her newest book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, is available in MP3 format along with the first five books in the series. But before fans rush off to search for the files on the Internet, they should be aware that the audiobooks can only be downloaded from Apple's iTunes Music Store.

According to published reports, Apple and Random House Audio Trade Group, Rowling's current audio publisher, reached a deal that gives Apple exclusive rights to the distribution of the entire digital audiobook series. The deal allows customers to purchase single digital audiobooks ranging from \$32.95 to \$49.95, and the whole series is available for \$249.

"We are honored that J.K. Rowling has picked iTunes for the debut of the Harry Potter audiobook series," said Apple's CEO Steve Jobs. "We're delighted to be able to bring these wonderful and wildly popular stories to iTunes Music Store customers."

Harry Potter fans will also get the chance to purchase the complete Harry Potter Digital Box Set with a collector's edition iPod.

Like the U2 collector's edition

iPod that was engraved with the autographs of each band member, the Harry Potter version will be engraved with the Hogwarts crest.

The books are narrated by 2000 Grammy winner Jim Dale, who also received three Grammy nominations for his narration in the Potter series. The longest book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, lasts for more than 29 hours. Overall, the entire series combined is the equivalent to almost 100 CDs.

According to the Audio Publishers Associations digital audiobook sales have quadrupled between 2001 and 2003 to more than \$18 million. This, and the fact that Harry Potter CDs and cassettes have been the best-selling audiobook series, could help the digital audiobook industry get off to a hot start.

The Harry Potter series has sold over 200 million copies worldwide in print editions and more than five million in audiobooks. The most recent book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, sold 6.9 million copies in the first 24 hours after its release. The highly demanded series has attracted online pirates who have created unofficial digital audiobooks for distribution on the Internet.

Rowling's decision to legalize the digital distribution of the audiobooks stemmed primarily from her concern over bootleg editions with altered text. "There have been a number of incidents where fans have stumbled upon unauthorized files believing them to be genuine and, quite apart from the fact

that they are illegal, the Harry Potter content of these can bear very little resemblance to anything I've ever written!" said Rowling.

On her Web site, Rowling also accused eBay of refusing to take responsibility for allowing Harry Potter merchandise with fake autographs to be sold on the eBay site. "As far as I could tell on the day I dropped in, only one of the signatures on offer appeared genuine," wrote Rowling.

Even though illegal sales have been relatively small, Rowling's attempts to curtail piracy by offering official digital audiobooks are respectable. On the other hand, the legal distribution of the audio files could backfire and, due to their accessibility, lead to an increase in internet piracy. Apple is hopeful that piracy of such files will be greatly reduce d.

## Research focuses on images

Professors delve into the brain's interpretation of visuals

BY ISHRAT AHMED  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Sight is one of the most important senses. You rely on sight to recognize your family and friends, to take notes at a lecture, to play sports and to read this article.

However, do you really know how your brain is able to process the visual world?

This is a question that scientists, including Dr. Fangtu T. Qiu and Dr. Rüdiger von der Heydt at the Zanvyl Krieger Mind/Brain Institute at Johns Hopkins have been investigating for years.

When a visual stimulus travels through your pupil and hits the retina, it is encoded into electrical signals that travel from the eye via optic nerves.

At the optic chiasm, where the two bundles of nerves meet, the signals from the left and right visual fields are separated.

These signals then proceed to the lateral geniculate nucleus and to the visual cortex, a complex mass of neurons located in the occipital lobe at the back of the brain.

This visual cortex is separated into several areas labeled V1 to V4 and others.

V1 is the primary visual cortex and receives many of the electrical signals before they move on to the other areas of the cortex.

Different areas of the visual cortex detect different levels of visual features. For example, brightness and color are registered at the retina. The signals travel to V1, which identifies orientation, and continue to V2 where edge, relative depth and figure-ground relationships are detected.

Eventually these signals lead to perception in the brain.

Qiu and von der Heydt recently

published a paper on figure-ground organization and the V2 area of the visual cortex in the scientific journal *Neuron*.

Figure-ground organization refers to the process by which the visual cortex recognizes the foreground from the background.

A widely known example of this shows both a vase and two faces facing each other in profile within the same picture.

However, you can only see one of the two images at a time. When you see the two faces in profile in the foreground, the vase serves as the

formation three or four times per second even as our gaze is moving.

Moreover, the brain is able to recognize the whole picture even as the eyes focus on just one part of it.

Von der Heydt explains, "Our work suggests that the system continuously organizes the whole scene, even though we usually are attending only to a small part of it."

Although this is a basic study, the implications for the future are significant. According to von der Heydt, the study provides a theoretical foundation.

The next step of this research is to understand an intermediate step in visual processing and perception: the selectivity of vision.

As von der Heydt explains, "The system processes just what is needed, and the brain is very good in selecting the right information. There's an unstructured mass of huge amounts of information, so to do something useful, it's important to grab something that makes sense."

The hope is that such research will eventually lead to a better understanding of visual disorders related to human brain diseases. Understanding the function of the visual cortex will help to interpret neurological symptoms in diseases.

However, it will take years to gather these findings. For now, von der Heydt puts it best, "The brain is like a universe, but we can understand some parts, at least, and make some progress."

This work was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

The paper, "Figure and Ground in Visual Cortex: V2 Combines Stereoscopic Cues with Gestalt Rules" appeared in the July 7, 2005, issue of *Neuron* (Volume 47).

## Global warming can be fought on campus

BY IRIS CHAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Global warming seems like a far-off, nebulous sort of problem. It somehow never enters the Hopkins world of studying for the MCAT, getting along with roommates, and choking down the dining hall food. But 20 years from now, when Hopkins students are flung all across the nation, global warming will indeed rear its ugly face. The future that looms ahead is filled with dimness and uncertainty, but it is not too late to seize it and fill it with brightness and promise. This process starts with reversing global warming.

Global warming starts with sun rays reaching and warming the earth. Carbon dioxide, which human activity emits through driving, using electricity and manufacturing, is an absorber of heat. Carbon dioxide absorbs the sun's heat and traps it in the atmosphere, instead of letting it travel back out into space. A thick blanket of heat now envelops Earth.

According to the National Climatic and Data Center, the atmosphere today contains about 32 percent more carbon dioxide than the pre-industrial atmosphere. The NCDC also states that the temperature of the earth has increased by 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 25 years.

All this extra carbon dioxide spells out disaster on a long-term global scale. Water expands in heat, and the excess heat melts the polar icebergs. Oceans are slowly rising. According to Dr. Kaaitlin

Szlavecz, an earth and planetary sciences professor, global warming "has serious economic consequences on cities built close to sea level," such as Baltimore. Rises in temperature will wreak havoc on farming and the food supply, and global warming jeopardizes the health of all members of society.

It may seem like modern mankind is slowly strangling itself and that nothing can be done. However, a few small changes in lifestyle would have a positive impact on the fight against global warming.

The first change is simply to turn off dorm lights during class time. Secondly, refrain from using the school dryers. A simple drying rack is easier, cheaper and saves a lot of energy. According to Penn State's numbers, opting for a drying rack over an hour in the machine will keep about 10 pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting the air.

Also, try to minimize purchases of bottled and canned drinks. An outrageous amount of carbon dioxide is emitted from the production of those dinky, single-use products.

Lastly, change paper-using habits. Manufacturing paper decimates the forests and emits a great deal of carbon dioxide. For those pesky e-reserve printouts, print on both sides of the page. The same goes for note-taking in lectures.

Halting a phenomenon that threatens all life on earth feels like an impossible task, but like many seemingly insurmountable challenges, the path to success begins with a few simple changes.

FALL festival 05

Celebrating Campus Community: Faculty, Staff, Students

Schedule of Events

Friday September 30

Kickoff Cookout 3p-6p Beach (Levering Rain Site)

Video Shoot-out 6p start <http://digitalmedia.jhu.edu/>

Ultimate Frisbee Tournament 7p-11p Practice Field

Saturday October 1

ROTC Relay Race Practice Field 10a-12n

Ultimate Frisbee Finals Practice Field 12n-5p

Student Organization Vendor Booths Levering Courtyard/Glass Pavilion 2p-7p

Root Beer Floats The Hop Stop 3p-6p

Laser Tag, Levering Patio 4p-8p

Sunday, October 2

Predawn Breakfast Glass Pavilion 1a-3a

Comedy night featuring Greg Giraldo 8p Shriver Auditorium

Casino Night - Great Hall 10p-1a Beverages sold w/proper ID

Student, Staff, Faculty Variety Show (Video Shoot-out videos shown at end of show) Glass Pavilion 7p-8:30p

Student Showcasing Shriver Auditorium 9p-11p

LAN Computer Game night @ DMC <http://digitalmedia.jhu.edu/> 10p-1a

Dating Game Arellano 11p

Events sponsored by: Digital Media Center, HOP, Student Development & Programming, GRO, Intramural Sports, & ROTC







# Sports site asks visitors, “What if?”

Last week, I finally got the Red Sox to win game six of the 1986 World Series. It took a couple of tries, but with my help, they did it, eking out a 3-2 victory over the Mets. You'll never believe this, but the Red Sox scored the tying run in the eighth off an error on an easy play at first base.

It's funny how computer-simulated versions of real life work out sometimes.

History, curses, destiny, reality — all of these once impedimental concepts have become my playthings ever since I discovered <http://www.WhatIfSports.com>. The site, which was founded in 1999, uses a massive database of rosters and statistics

to allow fans to simulate games between past and present sports teams, complete with simulated box scores and play-by-plays.

And apparently it's not just for sick, deluded individuals such as myself — in May, *WhatIfSports* won the prestigious Webby Award for Best Sports Website, beating out 2004 winner *ESPN.com*.

Because of the amount of time one can burn on *WhatIfSports* without even realizing it, the site is kind of like the sports nerd's equivalent of the Facebook. Except, of course, that the concept behind *WhatIfSports* is much more anti-social, and its frequent visi-

tors harbor absolutely no fantasies about the possibility of using the site to get laid.

But if you're the kind of person who thinks that people who don't want to hear about your fantasy football team are weird, then you'll feel perfectly at home on the site. When I think of all the years I have wasted by not wasting my life on *WhatIfSports*, it just gives me that “Why did I draft Jamal Lewis?” feeling deep in my chest.

After I managed to give Bill Buckner a second chance, I decided to take on a slightly more important mission: rewriting one of the most traumatic events of my childhood. I did it, and it took about six seconds.

The game I'm talking about was the UMass basketball team losing in the Final Four in 1996 to the Kentucky Wildcats, who were led by — if I remember correctly — Antoine Walker, Walter McCarty, Adolph Hitler and Satan. *WhatIfSports.com* allows me to go back in time — punch Rick Pitino in the face — and erase the memory of trying not to cry in front of my parents' friends.

To anyone who hasn't joined the hordes of lotus-eating fantasy sports addicts, the idea of staging imaginary sports games between teams of current players might seem a bit esoteric.

JASON FARBER  
SPORTS OF SORTS

# Polo beats the ivy out of Harvard, Brown

*Continued from Page A12*

complimented by a reinvigorated offense. Senior Jim Singleton scored three goals to help bring the team back into the game. Sophomore Sean McCreery scored the final Hopkins goal. With one minute left, the Blue Jays were ahead 9-7. Before time ran out, Brown got past Hopkins to score one more, but the Jays put a cork in their comeback to secure a 9-8 final score.

“That was one of our best games, because we were pushed behind, but we managed to come back,” said Bresnahan. Currently, Brown is the second-best team in the Northern Division, right behind St. Francis.

The players felt the same way about their win.

“We picked it up, kept it alive and played a better game after the second half,” said Bates.

The Jays' improved performance so far this year has had an effect on the whole team.

“Our morale has been pretty good,” said Bates. “Everyone's been supportive throughout our many practices.” With such a large team

to contend with, the high team morale is a good sign. With 23 players and only seven starters, many players get very little playing time.

Immediately after winning fifth place, Hopkins began planning their strategy for their upcoming games. They plan to put the defensive lessons they learned against Brown to the test against future opponents.

In the Brown game, Hopkins switched from a defense where each person guarded only one other person to a defense where players would team up against the main scorer. The team will also try to score from the outside, where the players are less heavily guarded.

The Jays succeeded in placing above their seed, but they don't have time to congratulate themselves as they continue their quest for a record-breaking season.

“We celebrated by talking about what we have to do next,” said Bresnahan.

In the upcoming week, the Blue Jays will play against Princeton, Navy and George Washington.

which not only allows gamers to create custom players but also to control practically every aspect of their career.

You're given the option of chewing out your coach, firing your agent, picking out new tattoos or starring in a movie — basically everything but skipping practice to do sit-ups in your driveway.

Fantasy sports have plenty of detractors, but I think they need to recognize that most real sports fans are just as crazy. Being a sports fan entails putting an insane amount of time and money into a group of guys who just happen to play half of their games in a stadium near you, even though if you were drowning, they wouldn't throw you the life preserver without first seeing if another city's fans would pay more for it.

And there are still people who question the appeal of fantasy sports? At least *WhatIfSports* games are free.

Not too long ago, a friend of mine joked about a “fantasy fantasy league,” where people could draft the owners of teams in his fantasy football league and predict how well they will do each week against each other. Sadly, this idea comes across more as satire than slapstick.

But here's the really sad part — I could imagine it catching on.



DAVID JOHNSON/NEWS-LETTER  
The Blue Jays' defense has held opponents to just three goals so far.

# W. soccer is now 9-0

*Continued from Page A12*

Their defensive expertise was matched by Muhlenberg, who battled back by keeping the Jays under ten shots — the first time this has occurred all season.

With a little less than 20 minutes remaining in the second half, McKenzie broke the stalemate by taking a pass from freshman midfielder Francesca Peretti.

Coming off the bench, Peretti sent the pass from the right side to McKenzie, who quickly slid around her defender to send the ball over the Muhlenberg goalie. The assist was Peretti's first contribution in the scoring — she is the fifth freshman to have gotten on the scoreboard this season.

The Blue Jays' current status of invincibility will be tested again this week starting this Saturday, when they play their conference rival, Ursinus, who boasts a stellar 7-1 record so far this season.

The game will be the start of a four-game stretch where they will also play nationally ranked College of New Jersey, Washington (Md.), and Swarthmore in a period of seven days.

Their legs may be tired, but if Hopkins' undefeated record means anything, their opponents would should know better than to underestimate the Jays, who fully intend on maintaining their spot on the pedestal.

# Volleyball goes 2-2 this weekend

*Continued from Page A12*

making lots of unforced errors. We gave away 20 points just on unforced errors. The team became frustrated with themselves, and then we started putting a lot of pressure on ourselves to try to do what we had done earlier in the match, and we just couldn't do it.”

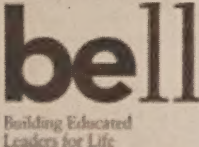
After the epic five-game match against Richard Stockton, the Blue Jays, working on a short night's rest, were faced with a daunting battle against a freshly rested, very strong Randolph-Macon team. In Pennewill's words, the Blue Jays were “just out of gas.” Randolph-Macon defeated Johns Hopkins 3-0 (30-23, 30-25, 30-18). In the match, only O'Callaghan tallied double digits in kills, with 12. Kay contributed 19 digs.

Even after a weekend in which the Blue Jays finished .500 and came back exhausted, the women are ready to take on their Centennial Conference foes, which started Tuesday night at perennial contender Gettysburg. Hajj feels the team is ready, though.

“I think we are at the utmost advantage going into conference play,”

Hajj said. “We have been preparing all season for this and it's our time to put into action the long hours in the gym. Championships are won or lost in the practice gym, and we feel we've come along far enough to make us a contender.”

“[Hajj] is a solid influence for us,” Pennewill said. “She always gives us one to two blocks a night, it seems. More importantly, though, is that it's a huge accomplishment for me ... and I'm lucky to be part of such a great program that has allowed me to achieve this goal.”

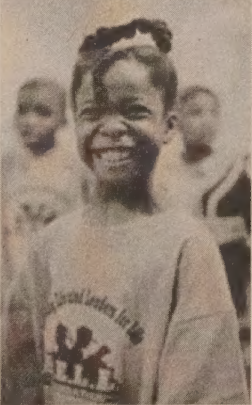


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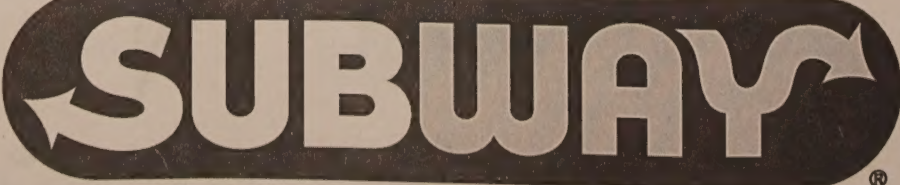
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SPORTS

# Jays XC finishes strong at Bull Run

BY MATTHEW MURRAY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It might be the season after a disappointing eighth-place finish at last year's conference championships for the women's cross country team, but as the team enters the month of October, the Jays, similar to Stella, finally appear to have gotten their groove back.

In an ultra-competitive field on Saturday, the team placed fifth out of 12 teams at the George Washington Invitational at Bull Run Park in Manassas, Va. Hopkins finished as the top Division III school in the race, and sophomore Angela Kaon once again paced the pack, ultimately finishing in 20th place.

Following Kaon was a devastating duo of remarkable racers, freshman Rachel Hogen and junior Christine Medina. Hogen finished only nine seconds behind Kaon and placed 23rd overall, by all means a huge achievement for a freshman runner in a field of mostly Division I runners. However, it was 37th-place Medina who successfully ground away at the 6K course in such a diligent manner that most impressed head coach Bobby Van Allen.

"[She] ran her best cross country race, in my opinion, of her Hopkins career," he said. She has taken on a lot of leadership this year and really is emerging as a solid XC runner."

After some initial struggles this season, sophomore Jacqui Clauss returned to her old form and was the fourth Hopkins runner to cross the line. Van Allen emphasized the team's dire need for Clauss to be at her best.

"If we're going to be successful at the conference championships, we need to have Jacqui back up there," he said.

All within 1:07 of each other, the varsity's top seven runners once again relied upon their tight pack to garner a solid finish on the day.



COURTESY OF SAM OLESKY  
**The women's XC team placed fifth on Saturday at the GW Invite.**

The men's team seemed to be on the cusp of the season's first major breakthrough, but fate wasn't on their side on Saturday. However, with the weather much improved

Sometimes the points stack up against you and you don't come out like you want to.

— SENIOR CAPTAIN GABE TONKIN

from the muddy and sloppy conditions that the Jays faced in their last trip to Bull Run in 2003, many of the men did manage to contribute stellar performances.

Sophomore Patrick Brandon took advantage of the pleasant weather and was clocked in at 26:51, a personal record.

"The intensity of the workouts this year has improved drastically from last year," Brandon said. "I think that that combined with the fact that we didn't taper as much as usual has really helped not only me, but the team as a whole."

Keeping within the 27-minute

range, juniors Travis Koh and Jason Chiang backed Brandon's strong finish. Although the team finished tenth out of the 12-team field, the Jays crept even closer to conference rival Gettysburg. Ready for another shot at their foe, many of the team's leaders seemed to be eager to try once more to upend them.

"Everyone ran well individually, but the fact that we did not stay grouped up cost us, especially when it came to running against Gettysburg," said senior co-captain Andrew Bauerschmidt. "We just need to keep practicing harder in order to beat them."

Senior co-captain Gabe Tonkin also commented on the rivalry, "Sometimes, like last meet, the points stack up against you and you don't come out like you want to, but Gettysburg is definitely a team we are capable of surpassing," he said.

Keeping all this in mind, Van Allen called again for the team to run in the races as they have in the practices.

"We really need to work on some flaws, such as not packing up well early. Our guys are all very close in practice, and we need to race that way," he said.

The men's and women's squads will next be competing on October 7 at the Blue Jay Maryland State Meet. The meet will be hosted by both Hopkins teams at Oregon Ridge Park in Timonium.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK BEN SCOTT, FOOTBALL

# Scott keeps Jays kicking

BY BRIAN GALBRAITH  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

As the autumn leaves begin to change colors, it's hard not to notice the Johns Hopkins football team making another run for a Centennial Conference championship.

But some of the players are doing a little more.

When the Jays come back from a game on Saturday night to begin their weekend, one Blue Jay never really gets a chance to take a break. Junior place-kicker Ben Scott is the true definition of a "weekend warrior" — not only does he spend most of the week devoting his leg to the football team, but as a pitcher for the Blue Jays baseball team, he spend his Sundays honing his arm at the team's fall ball practices.

"It's busy, but it's fun. Pitching on Sundays during the fall is a nice change of pace," Scott said. "But in the fall, I'm focused on football."

This season, Scott's dedication to the football team has shown more than ever. Coming off a great 2004 campaign, Scott dedicated himself to improving in the off-season.

Looking at last season's statistics, raising the bar seemed to be no easy task. After last year, in which Scott put himself in the Centennial Conference record books for most points scored by kicking and most field goals made, many wonder why Scott wouldn't be ecstatic to stay consistent with last year.

"Personally, I'm more confident after having success last season," Scott said. "I was a little unsure last year, especially with punting, but after last season I set my expectations a lot higher for this year."

From what he's done so far, he's

going to need to set his expectations even higher. Through three games this season, Scott has kicked seven field goals and scored 24 points. If he continues to put up those numbers, he'll be on pace to top last year's totals of 14 field goals and 71 points. Not only will he best his career highs, he will also break the Centennial Conference record for field goals, which currently stands at 16 in one season.

For what it's worth, none of these records are a concern to Scott.

"I aimed to have a better season than last year," he said. "Since that has been happening, I am just going to try to focus on each kick just like any other time."

Talking to Scott, it's easy to see that his focus is not on personal goals but on the team's continued success. And Scott's accolades are far from being the only thing the Blue Jays have to brag about so far — the team sits at 3-0 as it heads into Centennial Conference play.

"Every one on this team wants a conference title," Scott emphasized. "No one on this team has ever had anything less than [at least] a share of the title."

But while Scott may try to deflect the attention he's been receiving, it's a difficult task for him — twice, against Rochester and Carnegie Mellon, Scott has been the lone generator of points for Hopkins.

In the first game against Rochester, Scott drilled a school-record three field goals, one of which was the game winner from 37 — yards out. In making three out of four field goals, Scott sent shockwaves throughout the ranks of Division III football. It started with the Centennial Conference, which named him Conference Player of the Week and filtered all the way to head coach James Margraff, who was able to view firsthand the commodity he has in the strong-legged junior.

"It's a real confidence-boost to know your coach thinks you are going to make the kick," Scott said. "Some coaches don't trust their kickers, and if coach didn't want to send the field goal team on, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do what I've done."

While the team was barely tested



MIKE SCHUMP/NEWS-LETTER

in a 27-0 routing of Randolph-Macon, their next game proved to be different. For the second time in three games, Scott kicked three field goals, tying the school record which he set two weeks earlier.

In this game, Margraff's confidence in Scott was again displayed in the fourth quarter. With just seconds left on the clock, Margraff did not hesitate to put Scott on the field to knock down the game-winning 23-yard field goal — a mere chip shot in comparison to the 45- and 46-yards that he drilled earlier in the contest.

Scott's flair for the dramatic victory has him held in high regard with his teammates. Numerous teammates have dubbed Scott "the best kicker in Division III football."

"As a kicker you don't get that many opportunities a game to kick," Scott begins. "My duty every time that I go onto the field is to make the kick and help out the team out if we can't get into the end zone. I think I simply do what is expected of me."

From everyone's perspective, it's fair to say that Scott has done above and beyond what has been expected of him. It's also fair to assume that Scott will continue to do what the team expects from him.

That said, when Scott's time for helping the football team is up, don't expect him to take any time to rest — in the back of his mind, Scott knows that baseball season is just around the corner.

"In the fall, I'm a football player," he said. "But in the spring, I'm focused on baseball."

# Field hockey drops two to Lions, Mules

BY MELISSA KIM  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While the Johns Hopkins field hockey team is full of experienced, talented seniors, its new freshmen are not to be overlooked. Unfortunately for the Jays, neither the freshman nor the seniors could muster wins against The College of New Jersey or Gettysburg this past week: The team went 0-2.

Freshmen forward Adair Landy scored the lone goal of the week for the Jays against The College of New Jersey Lions, where the team fell 1-4

last Saturday. Landy and the Jays then headed on the road to Gettysburg on Wednesday night for their conference season opener against the No. 18 Bullets. The team fell 3-0.

Landy is tied for second place on the team in points with senior midfielder Meghan Roose. Roose has four goals so far this season.

The first year on a college athletic team is often the hardest and most difficult, but it can also be rewarding.

"The game against Mary Washington has stood out to me the most so far," said Landy. "It was my first

game and we won in overtime. It was really intense and gave me a great feeling for how the rest of the season would play out."

The field hockey team has five freshmen this year, and three of them have seen playing time.

"To tell you the truth, this whole season is going by so quickly and I have already learned so much," said Landy. "It is all just really exciting especially because I did not expect to have this opportunity to play my first year, but I'm really thankful for it."

Many field hockey players are not single sport athletes. Most have played lacrosse in high school as well, and Landy, an all-star lacrosse player in her high school days, was no exception.

"I was always torn in high school about which sport I wanted to play in college, but when it came down to it, I could see myself playing field hockey for another four years and I couldn't really see myself playing lacrosse," said Landy. "I'm really happy that I decided to play field hockey at Hopkins."

But Landy has her work cut out for her against the Jays' conference foes. In the Gettysburg match, one of the Bullets' leading scorers, senior forward Meg Goddu, put all three of the game's goals past the Jays junior goalie Dayna Eng. Eng had four saves in the match.

Goddu currently leads the Centennial Conference with 10 goals.

Gettysburg improved their record to 2-0 in conference play and 6-3 overall, while the Jays fell to 0-1 in the conference and 3-5 overall.

Not much could help the Jays as they dropped their eighth consecutive matchup against TCNJ. Eng held the Lions to one goal in the first half, making six saves by the end of the second quarter, but it was not enough. Lions junior Allison Greene scored two in the game while TCNJ cruised to a 4-1 victory. Eng finished the game with 11 saves, while Lions senior goalie Kristina Beyel needed only two for the win.

The Jays have only Centennial Conference matches left in their season and will host Muhlenberg College this Saturday at 1 p.m. on Homewood Field.

The team hopes to improve and build up their team as the season continues. They believe that they have what it takes to turn the season around to a winning one. With their excited and talented freshmen squad, the Jays like their chances.

"I think we have a lot of skill and a lot of heart, which are two necessary components to success," said Landy. "We have what it takes to be winners and I think that is exactly what we will be this year."



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

**Junior forward Jamie Zubrow, left, and the Jays are 3-5 this season.**



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## CALENDAR

## SATURDAY

Field hockey vs. Muhlenberg 1 p.m.  
Volleyball vs. Muhlenberg 1 p.m.



## SPORTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

No baseball team has ever made the playoffs with a record below .500. At press time, the San Diego Padres were 79-79 with a five-game lead in the NL West and four games left to play, putting them within striking distance of the dubious honor.

# Water polo nabs fifth at ECACs

## Hopkins continues to exceed expectations

BY ALENA GEFFNER-MIHLSTEN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Blue Jay water polo is having a program-defining season.

So far, the team has the best record at this point in the season in Johns Hopkins history, in addition to cracking the national top 20 rankings — for both Divisions I and III — for the first time ever. Despite several weekend games where Hopkins didn't play their best, the Blue Jays walked away from the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament with fifth place.

St. Francis, the 2004 ECAC champions, defended their title by knocking off No. 1 Princeton by a score of 10-6.

Hopkins came into ECACs seeded eighth out of eight teams. They were first matched up with Princeton, who, prior to the weekend, ranked first in the Southern Division and were seeded in first place.

Not unexpectedly, the Blue Jays failed to keep up with Princeton for the first game. This loss was partially due to the absence of three starters who were unable to compete in that game. The final score was 14-5.

Losing the first game put Hopkins into the loser's bracket, so Hopkins next played Harvard, who previously lost to Bucknell. Although Harvard should have been an easy opponent, Hopkins had a difficult time holding onto the lead, especially at the end. Junior David Strickland and freshmen Alex Bond helped the team lead with two goals each.

Although the Blue Jays consistently held onto the lead for the en-

tire game, they didn't play their best.

"It should have been easy," said head coach Ted Bresnahan. "We beat them, but we didn't play nearly as well as we should have." The games started off with Hopkins in the lead 3-1, but Harvard managed to come back within one point by the end of the game.

Team members recognized that they didn't play to their own expectations.

"We let them come back," said senior Win Bates. "We were in control, but we didn't really play." The Blue Jays did manage to keep their lead when it was most important — when the clock ran out — for a final score of 8-7.

The Blue Jays' final game pitted Hopkins against Brown for fifth place. Brown, seeded sixth, lost to Navy but defeated MIT earlier in the tournament. The team had expected to play against Brown in the fifth place game and was prepared to fight.

After the first quarter, however, Brown led 4-1. Hopkins was unable to make a real comeback during the second quarter, trailing 6-3 at the half. But the Blue Jays were finally able to switch into a more aggressive mode and play with the intensity that had propelled them throughout the season. The team decided to change their strategy, which helped them pull ahead during the second half.

"We switched up our defense from a man-to-man to a drop defense, where several players would drop on one of their main players," said Bates.

The new defense was  
CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman driver Chris Hanson and the Jays improved their record to 8-3.



DAVID JOHNSON/NEWS-LETTER

Junior midfielder Ben McAbee attempts to elude a Drew defender at Homewood. The game ended in a 2-2 tie after two periods of overtime.

# Men's soccer gets tied up in two games

BY DREW LEFKOF  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It all started when junior midfielder Blaine Phillips' teammates started calling him "space cadet," a nickname given for his unpredictable behavior off the pitch. Phillips said that heading off to the library following a Saturday night game, for example, has prompted his teammates to question his actions.

"Blaine is the heart and soul of the team. His off-field actions are something that all of us just have to worry about," said sophomore midfielder Nate Ford with a laugh. "He's just Blaine, you can't really explain it."

While Phillips has brought his team closer through his antics, he also almost won Saturday's game at Homewood Field with a tie-breaking goal over perennially ranked Drew University.

Phillips scored off a corner kick in the middle of the second half, which temporarily lifted the Blue Jays to a 2-1 advantage.

"After we scored, we changed the way we had been playing. We stopped trying to score and just tried keeping them from scoring. We figured we could kick the ball hard and run out the clock," Ford said.

The Drew Rangers, qualifiers for the NCAA tournament for the previous seven seasons, responded by

notching a late goal that sent the game into overtime. After double overtime, the game ended in a 2-2 tie.

"I cleared the ball to the forwards and I was sort of caught out of position. They were that much quicker than me," said junior goalie Dan Coble.

Hopkins managed three shots in the first overtime, but the Jays were not able to manage a shot on goal in the second overtime. Additionally, the Blue Jays held Drew to zero shots on goal for both overtime periods.

"We took it to the end against a very good team. We knew we wouldn't lose," Coble said.

Coble mentioned that the team's performance against Drew, along with its early success this season, has been in part due to the energy provided by the team's freshmen. He alluded to freshman midfielder Matt Carlson's early goal against Drew.

"Matt is a very strong player who holds himself up physically," Coble said. "That first goal [against Drew] was the result of him making the right run and knowing that the ball would be where he was. He plays like a senior."

According to Coble, several key injuries have been mitigated by the presence of a technically sound

freshman recruiting class.

"It's huge having these guys adjusting the way they've adjusted. They've taken everything in stride without any complaints and are comfortable wherever they are on the field," Coble said.

Ford added that the injuries faced are not valid excuses for failing to produce on the field.

"Injuries have certainly taken their toll, but we are not to look to them as an excuse for not playing well. We still need to beat Drew and McDaniel even if all the bounces don't go our way," Ford said.

Playing without senior  
CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

## INSIDE

### XC keeps pace with D-1 teams

Women's cross country placed fifth and the men placed tenth at the George Washington Invitational in Manassas, Virginia. **Page A11.**

### Scott kicks his way into record books

Athlete of the Week Ben Scott, junior kicker of the undefeated football team, is on pace to set single-season and career records. **Page A11.**

### Sports website asks, "What if?"

Sports editor Jason Farber examines *WhatIfSports.com*, a site that allows you to stage fantasy games, unhindered by history or reality. **Page A10.**

# W. soccer shuts out another foe

## One goal proves to be all Hopkins needs in win over the Mules

BY JASON CHIANG  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It wasn't a pretty game, with only one goal scored, but the Blue Jays pulled it off. Fortunately, Hopkins' defense proved to be more stubborn than the Mules'.

The women's soccer team continued its streak of dominance with another defense-laden game that left Muhlenberg defeated at home, 1-0.

Muhlenberg allowed Hopkins to take nine shot attempts, but just one successful shot was all the Blue Jays needed to come away with a 1-0 victory. The victory brings their season record to 9-0, the longest streak in the history of Hopkins women's soccer.

Coming into the game, the Jays had already amassed an impressive record. In addition to winning every single game this season, their goalkeeping duo of senior Jen Goebel and sophomore Kerry Hamilton has allowed only one ball into the net away from home.

"We feel really good. We've been practicing really hard, and we are ready to play TCNJ," Goebel said, referring to their Oct. 3 game against The College of New Jersey. "We're excited for some great competitions."

Hopkins has also scored more goals and dished out more assists than any other team in their conference.

Their renowned defense, which has been a focal point this season, is leading the Centennial Conference

in fewest goals allowed and most shutouts thus far.

The combination of the unflinching defense and number of fouls has managed to earn the Lady Jays the reputation of being one of the most aggressive teams out there.

Despite missing their top two leading scorers, freshman midfielder/forward Molly Steele and senior forward

Meg McIntosh, the women's soccer team stuck to its tradition of relying on their defense to guide them to victory. Welcoming the return of junior captain midfielder/defender Jessi McKenzie, who was back after a two-week injury, Hopkins kept Muhlenberg from taking any shots during the game.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



DAVID JOHNSON/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman midfielder Chrissy McCurdy and the Jays are 9-0 this year.

# Volleyball splits four to sit at 14-4

BY JOHN MONAGAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins volleyball team came back from the Salisbury Invitational this past weekend with a weaker record than they hoped for and a little more tired than they anticipated, but they were primed for conference play nonetheless. The Blue Jays went 2-2 in the annual tournament held at Salisbury College, beating Salisbury for the third time this season, as well as Catholic, but they lost to Richard Stockton and Randolph-Macon. After the tournament and heading into Centennial Conference play, the Blue Jays stand at 14-4.

Johns Hopkins was saddled with arguably the toughest schedule of all the teams competing in the tournament. Not only did they play their first match right off the bus against a tough Salisbury team, they were also forced to play back-to-back matches to start the tournament, and then were scheduled to work (line-judging) for the last time slot of the evening. Up early the next morning for the first match of the day, the Blue Jays were once again forced to play back-to-back matches. The schedule left Johns Hopkins understandably exhausted, and their play in the last match of the tournament showed obvious signs of wear and tear.

The Blue Jays first faced Salisbury, whom Hopkins had already dispatched twice in previous meetings. The third time was not the charm for the Sea Gulls, however, and they dropped the match 2-3 (30-27, 30-28, 22-30, 26-30, 15-13.) Senior Katie O'Callaghan led the Jays with 18 kills, and freshman Amanda Lewis added 61 assists. Junior Lizzie Kay contributed 33 digs to the winning effort.

The second match of the night for the Blue Jays had them square off against Catholic, another quality opponent. Johns Hopkins quickly did away with them, however, beating Catholic 3-0 (30-17, 31-29, 30-28) in a match that was closer than the final score indicates. Jen Hajj had 15 kills, including the 1000th of her career at Johns Hopkins. The milestone was met with great pride for Coach Scott Pennewill, who has watched Hajj mature throughout her career.

"[Hajj] is a real active player, and it's great to have somebody who understands the workhorse mentality," said Pennewill. "She is a great teammate for the other girls, and she understands how to work within the team concept."

Hajj herself was thrilled to be a part of the illustrious 1000-kill club, which teammate Katie O'Callaghan

joined earlier this season. Hajj was quick to deflect any accolades, and instead gave her teammates the assist.

"To have 1000 kills is something that can't be done without the whole team," Hajj said. "I can't do my job as a player if the defense and setter don't do their jobs. This is as much an honor for my teammates as it is for me."

After their match against Catholic, the girls were forced to wait around in the gym until nearly midnight before they could return to the hotel.

Having to be up again for a match at 10 a.m. the next morning, the women were already worn out. They started strong against Richard Stockton, jumping out to a 2-0 lead, but then tired en route to losing 3-2 (21-30, 21-30, 30-21, 30-24, 18-16).

Hajj and freshman Kim Jackanich each had 17 kills for the Blue Jays, and Lewis added 51 assists in the losing effort. Pennewill saw his team begin their descent in the second game, and, even though they held on to win, he could sense they might be in trouble.

"We started sliding during the second game," Pennewill said. "We started hitting a poor percentage and  
CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



# The B Section

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

## GIGANTIC DEDICATION IN A WORLD OF SMALL PRESS

BY WILLIAM PARSHALK  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

For nine years now, the Small Press Expo has been one of the major gatherings for independent comic creators and comic companies. Held in Bethesda, Md., this past Friday and Saturday, admission fees to the SPX went to the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, a non-profit organization which strives to assist comic shop owners, creators, artists, writers and more with the legal protection of First Amendment rights. The event itself provided a highly personal means for numerous creators to meet and sell comics to their fans. Every genre under the sun was represented at the Expo, from intricately drawn historical fiction like Jim Ottaviani's *Bone Sharps, Cowboys and Thunder Lizards* to quick, minimalist contemporary pieces that ponder life, car crashes and human interaction in works like JP Coover's *Moving Forward*.

"[Independent comics] are so under the radar you can do anything you want. There's a lot of humor books here, and that stuff's awesome, but it's more of a realism thing for us," said Stephen Floyd of his company One Percent Press, based out of Atlanta and Savannah. Floyd has been leading the company with friend and creator JP Coover for a little over a year. "Coming from a punk rock

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6



## Four diners revel in the fine art of greasy eats

BY JUSTIN OREN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Oh! The neon lights, torn vinyl, stale smoke, tasteful grime, *linoleum*! The Mid-Atlantic Diner is the greasy beacon of reliable nocturnal dining in a perpetually thriving scene at which discourse flows like coffee, awful poetry is written and aspiring gothic warlocks sit next to retired concrete workers and blitzed young professionals alike. To quote a friend of mine, "Diners are important because they cater to two groups — the people who have too much to do and too little to do, and for some reason they are both up at the same ungodly hour of the night." Few places can match the comfortable atmosphere of a well-run diner.

The fertile crescent of diners, according to your humble diner reviewer, lies within a three-hour driving radius of New York City, excluding most of the city itself. The city that everyone hearts so much changes at a pace that is too fast for the diner population to flourish; that is to say, that culture must stand still for about 30 years for proper diners to propagate and mature into pieces of genuine Americana. Diners seem to exist mostly where there is a crumbling industrial infrastructure, but any place with low enough property values and a plentitude of 80s Camaros will likely harbor a few of them.

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JUSTIN OREN/NEWS-LETTER  
The Nautilus Diner in Timonium, Maryland, is deeply inspired by an undersea motif, from the decor to the food.



# TELEVISION FOCUS

## Catch up with all your TV favorites

BY BROOKE NEVILS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

You waited patiently all summer during reruns for the return of your favorite TV shows. And just when you have far too much work to even consider taking a break to sit in front of the tube, all of your favorites are back on the air.

Everything from pregnant double agents to a guest appearance from Demi Moore to the most anticipated election in quite some time will be lighting up the small screen this fall.

Here is a small glimpse into what people will be talking about around water coolers over the next year.

*The O.C.* has become a cultural phenomenon. Watching this show may be one of your more embarrassing secrets, but that isn't preventing you and your friends from stopping everything on a Thursday night to watch the tribulations of the most irrational teens imaginable. Even if this means forcing yourself to believe that the characters on the show actually look like teenagers.

Many criticized the last season for not living up to the promise of its inaugural year, and the show's writers are doing everything in their power to stir life into this teen drama.

Last season ended when Marissa, played by Mischa Barton, shot Trey, Ryan's brother. Sound a little melodramatic? This is the kind of plotline that *The O.C.* thrives on.

In season three, Marissa and Ryan are kicked out of their high school. Marissa's mother, the evil Julie Cooper, loses everything, and — gasp — might even have to work to make a living. And the seemingly normal Kirsten enters a stint in rehab for alcoholism. No word yet on whether Ryan will return to his rebel-without-a-cause ways.

There are some notable guest stars this season. Jerry Ryan, best known to nerds everywhere for her time on *Star Trek Voyager*, plays Kirsten's new friend in rehab.

And some time in October, Demi Moore will make a guest appearance, most likely playing Summer's never-introduced stepmother.

Everyone in America wants to

know what is in the hatch. If you are unclear as to what the hatch is, you most likely haven't been keeping up with the ABC hit *Lost*. The second season of *Lost* promises an answer to this burning question, and it will most likely only create more mystery and drama surrounding the show's diverse array of characters and the island on which they find themselves trapped.

Fresh from an Emmy win for Best Drama, *Lost* is poised to be one of the most talked-about shows of the season. The notoriously tight-lipped writers promise more action, answers and revelations in the crucial character flashbacks.

This season is rumored to be focused on exploring the island rather than just trying to get off of it. And the show is going to have a lot more girl power during its sophomore effort. Michelle Rodriguez of *Girlfight* and *The Fast and the Furious*, along with Cynthia Watros, formerly of *The Drew Carey Show*, are joining

the cast.

*The West Wing*, now in its seventh season and the end of the second term of President Bartlet, has many wondering whether this season will be the last. The race is on between Matthew Santos, a Democratic Congressman from Texas played by Jimmy Smits, and Arnold Vinick, a Republican Senator from California played by Alan Alda. The future of *The West Wing* is very much at stake during this coming season.

The fifth season of *Alias* is all about dealing with the real life pregnancy of star Jennifer Garner. Television always handles real-life pregnancies differently. When Sarah Jessica Parker became pregnant during the filming of *Sex and the City*, the writers decided to hide the pregnancy on the show. When Lisa Kudrow became pregnant, so did her character Phoebe on *Friends*.

*Alias* writers have decided that Jennifer Garner's character Sydney will experience pregnancy along with Garner. Sydney is carrying Vaughn's baby when she discovers that he is under investigation for being a double agent.

This leads her to question the legitimacy of their relationship. During the fifth season, Sydney must protect her unborn child and get to the bottom of who Vaughn really is. Vaughn, played by Michael Vartan, is rumored to be killed off during this season.

It is no secret that everyone on the planet is eagerly anticipating the second season of *Desperate Housewives*. Gabrielle is pregnant, and everyone wants to know who the father is. Then there is the Susan-and-Mike relationship that has everyone glued to their seats, wondering whether or not they will finally be able to make it work.

Lynette is going back to work, and her nightmarish female boss is certainly going to make her life a living hell. And let's not forget the real reason people tune into the show every week: salacious sex. And there is no reason to feel bad about that. The cast of *Desperate Housewives* has made being 40 the new 20 and given women everywhere new reasons to feel bad about themselves. A new shocking relationship that is on the horizon for the show is between sexpot Edie and Susan's ex-husband Karl, which will surely stir the pot on Wysteria Lane for quite some time.

Let's not forget the reality show favorites. Donald Trump is back with a new season of *The Apprentice* and another group of unqualified candidates to fire. Tyra Banks and the skinny drama queens of *America's Next Top Model* also are making their return. Who can resist seeing wannabe models fall off the runway and cry their hearts out? And, as hard as it is to believe, *Survivor* is still on the air. This season's contestants are heading to Guatemala.

With so many returning favorites and with so many new and exciting options, our glorious televisions will give us all plenty of reasons to procrastinate this fall. And if you simply can't tear yourself away from your work, wait a couple of months, and anything that you were fearful about missing will be on DVD.



MORGAN DUMONT/NEWS-LETTER

Sophomores Jay Sahgal, Dylan Diggs and Kevin Dieter enjoy a TV break.

## A preview of this season's premieres

BY LEAH BOURNE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Fall brings a lot of changes — the color of leaves, the fashions, the weather, and, most jarring, the television lineup changes.

This is undoubtedly a little stressful — do you pick old favorites over something new and exciting? Do you risk losing an hour of precious study time to watch one of the stupidest shows ever created?

There is no reason to fear change, especially when it is possible to embrace it. Below, you will find a list of new shows that will hopefully help to ease whatever anxiety you may be fostering during this transition to a new television season.

**Commander in Chief** (ABC, Tuesday, 9 p.m.)

This show, about the ascension of a woman to the office of the president of the United States, is packed with star power. Oscar winner Geena Davis stars as the vice president who takes the high office when the previous president dies.

She is immediately asked to resign by the speaker of the House, played by Donald Sutherland; however, upon listening to his sexist reasoning for her resignation, she decides against it, and thus a woman finally becomes President. Well, at least on television.

**E-Ring** (NBC, Wednesday, 9 p.m.)

It is hard to say how good this show will ultimately be, but with Jerry Bruckheimer of *CSI* and *Without a Trace* fame, it is worth watching an episode for those that like action-packed dramas. With a *West Wing* meets Pentagon premise, the show promises high-octane drama.

**Everybody Hates Chris** (UPN, Thursday, 8 p.m.)

One of the most buzzed about shows of the season, Chris Rock narrates this sitcom that is based on his childhood during the early 1980s in Brooklyn.

**Extras** (HBO, Sunday, 10:30 p.m.)

Have you ever watched the hit English show on BBC, *The Office*? *Extras*, by the same writers, is the story of a few fledgling actors. Early buzz says that this show is going to be hysterical.

**Inconceivable** (NBC, Friday, 10 p.m.)

This is a new comedy about infertility. Leave it to some TV executive to spin one of the most unsettling things a woman can go through into comedy.

**Kitchen Confidential** (FOX, Monday, 8 p.m.)

Are you still crying because *Sex and the City* is off the air? Darren Star, former producer of *Sex and the City* and *90210* is back with what is expected to be one of the best shows of the season. This raunchy

book-turned-sitcom is about the hilarities of a restaurant. In the pilot, someone's finger gets cut off. Enough said.

**My Name is Earl** (NBC, Tuesday, 9 p.m.)

Jason Lee from Kevin Smith's *Chasing Amy* and *Mallrats* stars in this sitcom about a lottery winner who is using his money and newfound freedom to make amends for past mistakes.

**Rikers High** (Showtime, check <http://www.sho.com> for listings)

A far cry from the way that high school is portrayed on shows like *Dawson's Creek* and *The O.C.*, this documentary examines the real lives of high school teens on Riker's Island, the largest correctional facility in North America.

This documentary offers a chilling view of what young criminal offenders go through in high school, and of those that are trying to save them from a life of crime.

**Run's House** (MTV, Thursday, 10 p.m. in October)

MTV invites you into Reverend Run's house to get a glimpse of the inner workings of this rapper, reverend and brother to the King of Hip Hop Russell Simmons. Yes, it's another reality show about a quasi-celebrity. Don't act so above it — you know you watched every episode of *Newlyweds*.

**Supernatural** (WB, Tuesday, 9 p.m.)

In typical teen drama fashion, two estranged brothers abandon everything to look for their father who disappeared on a hunting trip. This is the WB's answer to popular TV thrillers like *Lost*.

**The Apprentice: Martha Stewart** (NBC, Wednesday, 8 p.m.)

Donald Trump turned "you're fired" into a national catchphrase. Stewart, fresh from prison and house arrest in her Connecticut mega-mansion, is offering a little competition to Trump with her first stab at reality TV. Whether Stewart's own coined phrase, "You just don't fit in," will properly compete is yet to be seen.

**The Colbert Report** (Comedy Central, Weekdays, 11:30 p.m.)

This much anticipated spin-off of *The Daily Show* offers viewers Stephen Colbert's version of the faux-TV news commentator. What *The Daily Show* is to the evening news, *The Colbert Report* will be to Larry King.

**The Ghost Whisperer** (CBS, Thursday, 8 p.m.)

Jennifer Love Hewitt returns to primetime with this show about a newlywed who can communicate with ghosts.

It is certainly no *Party of Five*, and whether Hewitt can make a drama of this kind work will soon be revealed in the next couple weeks.

## Students ritualize cult show viewing



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.CELEBRITY-EXCHANGE.COM](http://www.celebrity-exchange.com)

*Desperate Housewife's* stars entice viewers with *Stepford Wives* appeal.

BY LIZA WEHRLY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While free time is a luxury unknown to most Hopkins students, many will admit to setting aside an hour once a week for a particular television show. Be it the alluring weekly series *The O.C.* or the sitcom *Scrubs*, the popularity of such shows has created a culture at Hopkins surrounding these cult shows.

A visit to <http://www.thefacebook.com> will attest to the popularity of such shows.

By performing a search, you will quickly find that there exists a cleverly named Facebook group for virtually every sitcom ever written.

Moreover, these groups are extremely popular, many with member lists exceeding 100 people. *O.C.: Obsessed Completely* has around 265 members, *Seinfeld* has 162, *Friend's Lovers* has 117, and *24* has 106 members.

Everyone has his or her own personal favorite, so good luck trying to convince a friend that your show is better; however, the reason for watching these shows is generally the same. After all, who would say no to comic relief, a study break, social contact, an escape from reality and a weekly fix of high-octane drama?

After a stressful organic chemistry exam, along with practice or a lengthy stay at the library, a good laugh is always therapeutic.

"Watching *Seinfeld*, I am able to laugh off the homework with a little bit of old-fashioned escapism. *Seinfeld* is my other sarcastic best friend," said sophomore Maura Lillis.

For some, the need for comedy in an otherwise rigorous week feeds their cult show addiction.

Even the diligent student needs to close the books every so often, and for many, a comfy seat and an episode of *Sex and the City* or *Alias*

is the ticket to paradise and instant self-gratification.

Others admit watching a particular show in order to escape reality of the real world and live the life of a sitcom princess. Let's be honest: Who wouldn't want to be Rachel Green from *Friends*?

Sophomore Elizabeth-Ann Moss admitted, "*Lost* takes viewers to another world, and lives out their wildest heroic fantasies."

There are also those students who admit to watching a certain show because of the company they are guaranteed. After all, if you are looking for something to do on a Sunday night, chances are good that there is a group of students somewhere watching *Desperate Housewives*. You might not exactly like the show, but for some, having a cult show addiction is an easy way to feel like you are part of something.

And then there are those that feed on the high drama that embodies most weekly television series. There are actually students that live week-to-week waiting for the revelation of who Ryan Atwood (*The O.C.*'s endearing yet rebellious teenager from China) will punch next, or which singer will survive the final cut of *American Idol*. If Hopkins gossip isn't enough to satisfy your craving for drama, try an episode of *Laguna Beach*.

"I watch *My Super Sweet Sixteen* more than I study for biology, because I live vicariously through the girls in the show. I wish there was that much drama in my life," said sophomore Stephanie Lapearl.

As is the case with any other cult group, rituals are often established to go along with the watching of these shows. While these rituals don't usually involve chanting or ceremonial sacrifices, they can be both random and unique. For some, it is the routine of watching a weekly

show that engenders the establishment of certain rituals, and for others these customs simply add to the excitement of the episode.

"Seriously, I look forward to watching *The O.C.* every week because this is the time when I get to relax with my friends, revel in high drama, and we always have plenty of snacks around," said sophomore Maggie Stevens.

While there is no norm for these weekly rituals that many students follow, some rituals include having a special, exclusive group of friends with whom you watch the show, pig out on pizza or Chinese food, or play a show related drinking game (try drinking every time Kirsten Cohen appears holding a glass of wine or Marissa Cooper wears a short skirt and you might not remember the episode!).

Theme parties are also popular cult traditions. *Sex and the City* parties usually involve a classy evening filled with cosmos and your favorite girlfriends, while an *O.C.* theme party may involve beach attire, short skirts, and plenty of Malibu.

Before concluding that Hopkins students are anomalous for so closely following the twists and turns of weekly sitcoms, consider the success of summer blockbusters such as *The Dukes of Hazzard* and *Bewitched* that are based on the plots of old television shows, and remember the popularity of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Beverly Hills 90210* and the countless other sitcoms of your early childhood. Know that many other universities have similar Facebook groups made for a shared appreciation for certain television hits.

### YOUR TV GUIDE

<b>Sunday</b> 8 p.m. <i>The West Wing</i> NBC 21 9 p.m. <i>Desperate Housewives</i> ABC 12 10 p.m. <i>Grey's Anatomy</i> ABC 12	<b>Wednesday</b> 8 p.m. <i>The Apprentice: Martha Stewart</i> NBC 21, <i>America's Next Top Model</i> UPN 24 9 p.m. <i>Lost</i> ABC 12, <i>E-Ring</i> NBC 21 10 p.m. <i>Invasion</i> ABC 12
<b>Monday</b> 8 p.m. <i>Arrested Development</i> FOX 15 8:30 p.m. <i>Kitchen Confidential</i> FOX 15 10:30 p.m. <i>Laguna Beach</i> MTV 51	<b>Thursday</b> 8 p.m. <i>Alias</i> ABC 13, <i>The O.C.</i> FOX 15 9 p.m. <i>Reunion</i> FOX 15 10 p.m. <i>ER</i> NBC 21
<b>Tuesday</b> 8 p.m. <i>Gilmore Girls</i> WB 14, <i>Bones</i> FOX 15 9 p.m. <i>Commander in Chief</i> ABC 12, <i>My Name is Earl</i> NBC 21 10 p.m. <i>The Real World Austin</i> MTV 51	<b>Friday</b> 8 p.m. <i>Ghost Whisperer</i> CBS 23 9 p.m. <i>Threshold</i> CBS 23 <b>Saturday</b> 11:30 p.m. <i>Saturday Night Live</i> NBC 21



# FEATURES

## Questing for the greasiest spoon



A hungry customer enjoys the kooky ambience and average food at the convenient Papermoon Diner.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1**

New Jersey is classically praised as being the diner-iest state in the Union, but eastern Pennsylvania and eastern New York make laudable claims at the claims at the crown with their well developed lower-income suburbs. Where, then, does Baltimore fit in?

Baltimore, though chock-full of crumbling infrastructure in general, only has a handful of true diners. This strikes me as ironic due to the fact that the motion picture *Diner* was filmed within city limits — but things aren't completely hopeless. There is one pseudo-diner within Hopkins shuttle range, and several bona fide setups are a few miles away. A diner must hold to certain key tenets in order to be great. Behold: the list.

1. **Genuineness** — A diner has to be sincere and legitimate. Places that try to be a diner because being a diner is "cool" will never be cool. Real diners are made that way because *that's the way things are done*.

2. **Atmosphere** — There should be some sort of jukebox, preferably one at every booth; a smoking section must be available; chrome, vinyl and linoleum are expected; wear and tear

is not to be considered a flaw unless damage interferes with the mechanics of eating or sitting. Actual dirtiness on eating surfaces is a serious flaw. It must be open 24 hours a day.

3. **Food** — This is obvious. No one wants to eat at a place where the food is carelessly prepared or the menu poorly designed. Most diners will have a mind-bogglingly wide selection of foods. Standard fare like burgers and fries should be affordable. Weirdly expensive items are permitted on the menu and should be welcomed as a kitschy perversion of expectations.

4. **Clientele** — The vibe of a diner is invariably related to the type of people who go there. Elderly people should be present and associated with the establishment. Individuals coming off the night shift at any

place referred to as a "mill" are a prize and confirm the quality of the diner. Punk rockers, emo kids and artsy youths are permitted to a degree, so long as they don't turn the whole experience into a post-modern joke.

So let's talk Baltimore diners and how they stack up to my rigorously biased categories. Paper Moon Diner is located near campus on West 29th Street. It's open 24 hours, which is convenient, but falls short for a few reasons. It is more aptly categorized as a post-diner, a restaurant inspired by genuine diners but redesigned for the next generation of night-loving greasehounds. It will do in a pinch if a car or sober drivers are not available, but it's pricey for a diner. It's worth seeing once for the decorations, and it hops



JUSTIN OREN  
POST-MODERN  
GOURMET

## Swiss scholar puts mark on tattoo art

BY PATRICK MEANEY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

When a typical layman attends a lecture entitled "Skin Cartography: Tattooing and Literature," it's hard to know what to expect. I was thinking some alternative-lifestyle professor would give a brief, informative presentation and then talk about some of the tattoos he'd seen while in state penitentiary for not paying taxes.

But in truth, the only thing alternative was Dr. Ulrike Landfester's cropped purple hair. The professor from St. Gallen University, Switzerland, gave a scholarly talk to a captive audience this past Tuesday, Sept. 20. The lecture was not for the faint of heart. In two hours, Dr. Landfester read an English translation of her paper (one still in the works) at high speed in an overcrowded Gilman room that had no AC. I wasn't sure if she was speaking English, German or some apocryphal middle-language (for example, Visigoth).

When they announced that she had only just got off the plane from Mainz, Switzerland, and had only just been convinced to give the lecture in English, I began to think there might be something I was missing already; for instance, why were there only people from the German department in attendance? As it turned out, the lecture was really terrific, except that for the very obvious fact that from time to time I had no idea what Dr. Landfester was talking about.

Central to the paper is an exploration of how the view on tattooing changes over time. At least that's how I understood it. "The tattoo continues to change with time," writes Dr. Landfester, "just as the battleship on a young man's chest in time becomes a folding ship on an old man."

Apparently, the tattoo is also losing its trademark of permanence. This could be because of the close relationship Dr. Landfester claims exists between tattooing and writing, which stands to reason when most writing has become a digital process these days. "Today the phenomenon of the tattoo is becoming invisible — nearly every modern tattoo parlor offers to remove its

services by means of laser."

Some of the lecture was straightforward enough. Dr. Landfester reported that tattooing was popular among medieval pilgrims in the Holy Land who wanted to record their journeys. Apparently they didn't realize that the village tattooist could just as easily write "Jerusalem, Spring Break 1342" on their arms and no one would be the wiser, seeing as how they couldn't read. But this step was evolutionary and helped with the later proliferation of tattooing made popular by exotic Tahitians trying to make a buck as billboards.

Another part of the lecture I found I had a vague familiarity with was her early reference to Harry Potter, who has a scar on his head as a marker of his destiny. The book had been part of her inspiration to write "Skin Cartography," so I gave a big vigorous nod when I recognized the name. The same for when she mentioned "In the Penal Colony" by Franz Kafka, which I haven't read per se, although I have whole-heartedly considered doing so a number of times.

As for the other works mentioned in the lecture, I was at a loss. I may have been the only one in the room not familiar with the collected works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, as well as the modern cannon of tattoo-oriented literature. The rest of the audience were graduate students completing their various programs in the German department, and as such, they were constantly giving nods whenever Dr. Landfester came up with a reference to obscure poems by Heinrich Heine.

In the lengthy question and answer session that followed, it became clear that these graduate students and professors had come prepared. Every person who raised a hand had an original and engaging point to make, and Dr. Landfester was the first to admit she would leave with much more material than she had come. And then I asked a question. Her answer, after much clarification and rephrasing on my part, was simply, "I would say there is no categorical answer to that question." At least there wasn't going to be a quiz.

Baltimoreans, however, probably wouldn't have done all that



Junior Mary Wu shows off her tattoo, based on Hokusai's "The Wave."

badly on that particular test, seeing as how Charm City plays host to a museum dedicated to ink on skin. While it doesn't delve into the literary ramifications of covering your skin in decorations, it still provides some textbook examples that even the graduate students of the German department could appreciate.

Located in the back of a Fells Point tattoo shop, the museum is little more than a series of rooms with walls displaying photographs, tattoo designs and memorabilia. But if you look closely at each of the pieces, a visit to the museum becomes akin to a visit to any good collection of art.

It becomes easier to see what Dr. Landfester was aiming for in her lecture: the idea that the tattoo, while transcendent and permanent to the eye, advances over the years, just as all art evolves. From the Maori warrior with swirls of black across his face and chest comes the skater punk with lizards on his forearm, and from this comes the businesswoman with characters across her ankle.

So I won't be writing a dissertation on the tribal tattoos of Queequeg of *Moby Dick* fame after my tattoo indoctrination, but, with some help from Dr. Landfester and the German department, and a tattoo museum in my backyard, I can look over at the small tattoo on the cute coffee shop

on weekend nights.

Next is the Towson Diner, another 24-hour establishment located on 718 York Road. This is a clean, well-lit place and is a good choice if you don't want your clothes smelling like smoke. Food choices are diverse and well prepared, although expensive for what they are. The patronage is a younger Towson crowd that leans on the preppy side, so the diner beginner need not worry about awkwardly salty characters trying to talk to him about concrete. The Towson Diner is clean and satisfying but ultimately sorta bland.

The Nautilus Diner is farther away on 2047 York Rd., but is the first diner on this list to get a *Note of Distinction*, though one with reservations. The Nautilus is an aesthetic gem, with a kitschy interior design appropriately inspired by the sea. They carry a ridiculous amount of choices, including a whole page of seafood and a wine list. A wine list! The Nautilus is probably the fanciest diner I've ever seen, and I recommend it for intimate dates and wedding proposals. Their jukebox selections are hilariously bad and rife with typos and improper labels. To that, I offer a giggle and a shake of the head.

The best diner I have experienced in Maryland is the Bel-Loc on 1700 East Joppa Road. The Bel-Loc satisfies every requirement of a good diner except one. It's only open 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays. I am inclined to forgive this, due to its other unique qualities. Everyone who works at the Bel-Loc seems to be over 70 years old, and the décor is the same as it was in 1964 when the diner opened.

The menu is small, but the prices are excellent, the portions are generous and the food is good. The jukebox is the best I've seen at a diner and features hits by artists such as Steely Dan and Patsy Cline.

The clientele is so perfectly Baltimorean that I cannot doubt the legitimacy and prestige of the Bel-Loc as a local establishment. It's a slice of ol' fashioned Bawler culture and is not to be missed.

## Go get them while they're still young

While living in a hostel in Buenos Aires for a little over a month this summer while doing research, I met two very good looking Aussie roommates. One of these guys, named Shannon, ended up being a good friend, the other a little more.

One night, sitting with Shannon, we were joking around about his upcoming birthday, and I took the opportunity to mock him a bit for yet another candle appearing on his cake — I assumed around 28. His retort? "Well, your boyfriend's 34. Don't make fun of me for being old."



JESS BEATON  
ORGASMIC  
CHEMISTRY

Even in a great Aussie accent, that statement made me choke on my drink. The main problem with this revelation, other than the objectionable use of the word boyfriend, was that I had thought the guy in question was 27. They say that travel broadens your horizons; often you hope it's more intentional than it was in my situation. My month getting acquainted with how things are done south of the Equator, however, put a lot of things in perspective when I returned to Hopkins.

Generally at JHU, the topic of age appropriateness comes up not in reference to the random 30- or 40-something guy/woman we pick up around B'more but to sparks flying between seniors with too much time on their hands and freshman who are taking all their classes S/U.

Since, in college, we've mostly passed the point where legality is an issue, we can call the move "cradle robbing-lite;" a lesser form of cradle robbing and years removed from grave robbing.

Everyone has their limits when age is concerned, but college is that time when those lines in the sand are a bit less defined. Is a senior guy and a freshman girl OK? What about the other way around? How about if the freshman's only 17? (Yes, that's still legal.)

What about underclassmen and grad students? (FYI: it is fine to get T'n A from a TA as long as they are not your TA. Really, the general non-English speaking thing could be fun and a good way to practice a foreign language.)

I'll put it out there that although we all think of it differently — four years could be nothing or a huge age gap depending on your perspective — the reasons to go older are pretty much universal for everyone.

Sometimes we want to be a teacher and sometimes we want to be the student needing to be held after school. It might sound trite, but for those who aren't really into role playing, robbing the cradle is one of the easier ways to take on a role you're not normally accustomed to.

I think the orientation T-shirts really say it all. On the front they simply say, "Hopkins Orientation." On the back, "We welcome your daughters." This is the more typical way one thinks of cradle

robbing.

But not all the stereotypes of senior guys and naïve freshman girls apply either. Take, for example, the guy I met (and subsequently dated) freshman year. He would not hook-up with first semester freshman girls (no really, he wouldn't — I tried). His reasoning? He didn't want to be only a teacher.

One thing that does remain constant, though, is the senior girl's view on that four-year gap: no. My favorite comment that I've overheard in conversation, and I might be guilty of saying as well, is, "Aw, he's really adorable."

Let's put this into perspective. Babies (when they're not crying) are adorable. The random bunnies that escape the labs and hop around campus are adorable. Some shoes are adorable. I don't know many guys who wouldn't understandably give up all hope if the girl he was hitting on looked at him and called him "adorable." This point of view leads to the stereotypical senior girl who bemoans, "Well, any guy I've really ever been interested in graduated last year."

This attitude that the only guys that are good enough for the senior girl have long since departed puts upperclassmen girls in an awkward position. After all, there aren't many upperclassmen girls who feel like moving back to Royce for their senior year.

The double standard for male-female cradle robbing is, for better or for worse, still very much alive. A girl would be mocked for taking on a pro-bono case of a guy younger than her, while no one would think twice about a guy doing the same. Although the Mrs. Robinson image is still with us, it is not exactly the norm.

What it sometimes comes down to is that often senior guy/freshman girl is just a hook-up, whereas a senior girl/freshman-or-younger guy is a longer term process. Although girls end up putting more into it, they also get more out in the end — a blank slate can be a wonderful thing.

Think of some of the best teachers you had growing up: they were always supportive, never punishing but rather showing the right way; always letting you know the agenda for class and, most importantly, making learning fun.

For some people this sounds great, for others they just don't have what it takes to become teachers — but you never really know until you try. Just try not to screw up future generations in the process.

We hear time and time again that teaching is an honorable profession, but yet so few people are going into it. Although I don't think these are the skills Teach for America is looking for, you would still be doing community service, and, like all good teachers, I can guarantee that those you teach will be thanking you for the lessons in years to come.

## Head of NPR talks news radio

BY ERICA MITRANO  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

When Bill Marimow, managing editor of National Public Radio, spoke at the Hopkins Club last Thursday evening at the invitation of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, he was given a glowing introduction by Joe Sterne, an IPS senior fellow and former reporter and editor at the *Baltimore Sun*, as "a good journalist who has long practiced good journalism."

Marimow's career bears this out. As a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1978 for co-writing an article on police officers who beat prisoners to force them to confess to crimes. The article led to the exoneration of a man convicted of murder and sent 6 Philadelphia police detectives to prison. In 1985, Marimow won another Pulitzer for his story about

Philadelphia police K—9 units setting attack dogs on helpless and innocent people. But the story that stuck most in his mind was his investigation, also for the *Inquirer*, of a deadly confrontation between the Philadelphia police and members of a black radical group, MOVE. The police arrived at MOVE's collective house to arrest four members of the group but were unable to due to resistance from the house's residents. The police used a helicopter to drop a bomb on the roof of the row house, starting a fire which the authorities allowed to burn unchecked. Of the 13 residents in the house, 11 — including five children — burned to death, and a total of 61 homes were destroyed as the fire spread to neighboring houses.

Marimow believes that his use of journalism to expose problems in society and improve people's lives — what he called "public service

journalism" — is of prime importance, and he carried this conviction with him when he joined the *Baltimore Sun* in 1993. While he was at the Sun, the paper discovered that two-thirds of Baltimore's third-graders were reading below grade level. The *Sun* publicized the problem, forcing officials to act to improve reading instruction in Baltimore public schools. Remarkably, however, the *Sun's* involvement did not stop there. The paper inaugurated the famed "Reading by Nine" program, which encouraged Sun employees to tutor school children themselves — on company time.

Marimow's tenure at the Sun was marked by other successes as well. During his time as managing editor, the Sun won two Pulitzer Prizes. Marimow was made the editor of the *Sun* in 2000. He was fired from the *Sun* in 2004 — after 11 years at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



## FEATURES

# Baltimore rents fail to make the cut



Low income rentals, like this Sandtown rowhouse, are often unsafe.

BY JAMES FREEDMAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

There is currently a housing crisis in Baltimore. It's not being caused by out-of-control price spikes. It's not the fault of ineffectual politicians. Not even greedy landlords can be blamed.

Rather, the problem is that rent in the city is too low, but still too high for many residents who simply can't find housing they can afford. Some landlords are also struggling to survive on less than \$400 a month per rental unit, but about half of the rental units in the city going for less than that, according to a recent study by Sandra J. Newman, a professor at The Johns Hopkins University.

The study — released Sept. 12 — shows that Baltimore has two poor residents for every affordable housing unit available, and that more than 16,000 households are currently on a waiting list for low-income housing. An increasingly poor group of renters

is causing a detrimental situation for landlords and tenants alike, as Newman, who also directs the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, showed in her study.

"Baltimore has a serious affordability problem," she said. "But the problem arises because so many renters in the city are poor — and getting poorer — not because a shortage of rental housing has bid up rents to unattainable levels."

Newman's study also shows that "mom and pop" landlords — essentially landlords who have less than five rental units each — own more than 80 percent of the city's low-income housing, but they receive almost no help from government programs intended to improve low-income housing.

Rates lower than \$400 a month make it difficult for these landlords to keep up their properties, and projects intended to rehabilitate housing in Baltimore rarely benefit mom and pop landlords, who have

a hard time competing with larger property owners for scarce rehabilitation funds.

Ed Rutkowski, executive director of the Patterson Park Community Development Corp. and one of five independent reviewers of the study, knows all too much about this degenerative cycle.

"Too many Baltimoreans just can't afford higher rents," said Rutkowski. "Yet we must have higher rents if we are to improve the housing stock's condition."

While there might not be an easy solution to this housing problem, Newman's study outlines a few possible solutions. One choice is to implement a trust fund which will help bolster the current federal, state and local funds that are currently the only cash that Baltimore receives to help improve low-income rental properties.

This would provide a much needed financial jumpstart for the eventual renovation and rehabilitation of lower-income properties, many of which now languish in states of disrepair, their owners unable to muster the money necessary for repairs. With a better renovated base of properties,

the slide into unsafe and unsanitary housing will be halted, which would eventually help to draw investors into neighborhoods that are currently plagued with chronic abandonment and neglect.

Newman also said that the city should collect and analyze data on low-income housing.

Such number crunching on the part of the city government would help evaluate the effectiveness of currently existing housing programs. The evaluations would, in turn, lead to changes.

"Timely and accurate data would allow program designers and policymakers to better understand

this market and to answer critical questions about underlying problems, not just symptoms," she said. "CitiStat provides an excellent vehicle on which to build, but much still needs to be done to finish the job."

CitiStat has been Baltimore's answer to many of its woes since its inception under Mayor O'Malley. Essentially, it acts as an accountability tool by collecting data in a pin-mapping format that tells more about the city of Baltimore than almost any tool used in the past. But even with the power of complex statistical analysis on their side, nearly everyone involved in the development of Baltimore concedes that a lot of work is left to be done.

Robert C. Embry, president of the Abell Foundation, which funded Newman's study, believes that "the issue needs to be high on the community agenda," and knows that, though it only actively touches a certain segment of the population, it nevertheless affects the community at large.

Available and affordable rental housing is critical to the health of any contemporary urban community, and it is a particularly important issue for the poor," said Embry. "The issue needs to be the subject of ongoing debate."

While there is no quick solution to such an intractable issue, studies such as Newman's are conducted with the hope of eventually improving the situation for thousands of Baltimore residents.

After all, the best way to attack a problem is to know as much as you possibly can about it. In that respect, with her new study, Sandra Newman has contributed a great deal to the eventual defeat of poverty in Baltimore.

Baltimore has a serious affordability problem, but the problem arises because so many renters in the city are poor.

— SANDRA NEWMAN,  
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY  
STUDIES DIRECTOR

# London bridges the fashion gap

Cheerio, chim chim cheery, hallo and g'day. The long-anticipated day has arrived where I ledge my passion for fashion not from a city reputed for crab cakes and crime rates, but from one of couture, individuality and an intrinsic means for setting the pace of style and culture for the rest of the world.

Yes, this is a city that's forever been ahead of the times, introducing us to

trends, including Mohawks, grunge, bespoke tailoring, crumpets and so much of what people around the world have adopted over the years.

This city is our older, stylish sibling, if you will. This city is none other than London — the capitol of style and a fashion addict's Mecca. Any metropolis where royalty

reigns, the Beckhams receive more press coverage than the monarchy, and the citizenry gets six weeks of vacation can't help but be fabulous.

Currently — and quite fortuitously — London is abuzz with talk of fashion. Within the past three weeks, two monumental events in the industry have taken place in London. First, the fashion world's top model and London's very own, Kate Moss, admitted to cocaine use after photos were taken of the supermodel snorting up in a U.K. nightclub. "Cocaine Kate," as the London press now refers to her, has shocked the nation, causing her to not only lose face, but also contracts with the brands Burberry, H & M and Rimmel. In addition to Miss Moss' controversy, the buzz encapsulating the city is that of London Fashion Week, which recently concluded and

whose praises were sung by the nation's press.

While the shows of past years have received harsh criticism for being the weakest of the four major fashion hubs — the other three being New York City, Paris and Milan — this fall's London collections proved quite the contrary.

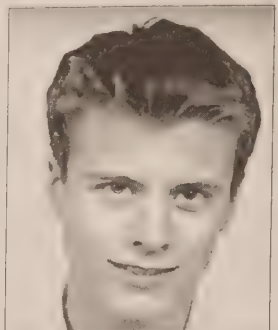
In addition to collections debuted by designers Alexander McQueen and Julien MacDonald that feature wearable styles and emphasize com-

fort over eccentricity — making the London shows similar to those of New York — fall 2005 also brought an onslaught of supermodels to the city.

In the past, the majority of fashion's most famous catwalkers were busy preparing for the Paris and Milan shows and skipped out on modelling for London's

designers. But this year, superstars like Natalia Vodianova and Liya Kebede took to the London runway, confirming the press' claim that this year's week of fashion and fetes was London's best. While the actual clothes shown weren't all that different from those debuted by American designers in New York City — an emphasis on black, neutrals, fringes and knits — there was a sense of classic British cheekiness. For example, Alexander McQueen sent one of his models out wearing head-to-toe black, save an orange plume stuck to her bottom.

While news of Cocaine Kate, Fashion Week '05 and, of course, the Royal Family flood my tabloid-obsessed head, I'll keep reporting the latest in fashion from a city that truly lives up to its rep. As soon as I grab a pint in the local pub, that is

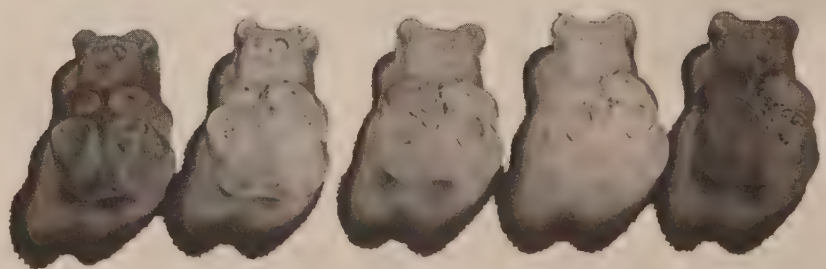


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FEATURES

HOT AT HOPKINS

Who was that hottie behind you while you were waiting to pass through the security turnstiles? Talk to your favorite security guard, then email: [features@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:features@jhunewsletter.com).



Name: Whitney Grither  
Year: 2009  
Major: Chemistry/Pre-med

Boys, take off your lab coats and get your thermometers ready for some temperature taking — this cutie's a chemistry major. But don't go thinking Whitney Grither's just another library-lovin', grade-obsessed, antisocial science nerd. No way, Whitney is one friendly chick. "It's a Midwest thing," she said.

One problem, though, is that she's so friendly that "I have a hard time turning people down." Okay, we're not gonna go there. But if you want to, well, don't hold us responsible.

She's also got a bit of a flirtatious side too, as evidenced by her affinity for donning oh-so-feminine skirts. "I want to move somewhere warm so I can wear them year round," she said.

If you'd like to turn up the heat with this short-skirted señorita, you've got some high standards to live up to. She'd like her ideal guy to embody perfection, though if this is a bit too difficult to find, she's also a sucker for nice eyes. She's so into the peepers that "I write people off because their eyes are weird," she said.

Oh, and Johnny Depp look-

alikes are winners with this woman too. Just, uh, no Golden Tickets for you if you resemble Johnny Depp during his creepy stage as Willy Wonka. So if you have a bad pageboy haircut and oddly pale skin, or are accompanied by a squad of singing midgets, you are out of the running. Sorry, but it's true.

Those hoping to woo Whitney don't have any certain formula to follow. But one thing's necessary to truly balance her equation. "I'd like for someone to sweep me off my feet, which has yet to happen," she said. What are you guys waiting for? This girl is in some serious need of an exothermic reaction.

Just make sure that after your magnificent night with this hottie, you follow through with your promises. "If you say you're going to call, then call," she said. "You weren't obligated to say you were going to in the first place, so if you don't want to, don't say you're going to call."

C'mon guys, get thee to an optometrist (for those colored contacts), and see if you have chemistry with Whitney.



Name: Collin Kamm  
Year: 2009  
Major: Political Science

Here's a slam dunk of a hunk for you girls to feast your eyes on:

freshmeat (oops, freshman) and Hopkins hoopster Collin Kamm. Tall, blonde-haired and blue-eyed, this classic cutie might as well be described as the personification of the Ken doll, but with genitalia included, of course.

Though it's tough for this fellow to decide which of his many outstanding qualities is his best, he settles for the old standby — "my charm." Well, he may be Prince Charming, but he's not one for being modest. "Throughout my life I have found that I do not possess any real negative characteristics," he said.

A hottie with a self-proclaimed perfect personality — what more could you possibly ask for? Oh yeah, every girl has a little bit of a thing for a jock. Yup, you can catch this cutie on the court playing for the men's basketball team. And, if you're really lucky, maybe after the game he'll meet you for a little bit of one-on-one.

Speaking of scoring, in the off-court sense of the term, Collin said, "there is no reason not to try to score right away if the date went well." And, if you're wondering (you know you are) what kind of date this gentleman considers a good one, let's say he has yet to learn the true definition of wining and dining.

"I would take my date someplace really classy for dinner, like P.J.'s. If she is lucky, I will invite her back to the love pad known as AMR II," he said.

Well, pizza and pitchers isn't that bad, at least when you're looking into this suave guy's baby blues. That's amore, indeed.

He hasn't always been such a smooth chick magnet, though. During his very first date in the seventh grade, "my fly was down the whole night," he said. Poor guy. Hope he doesn't try that one again, it might be a little misconstrued now.

So, if you're looking to see Collin's "AMR II love pad," suit up and put on your game face.

# Learning to love the MSE

Seeing the up-side amid the coffee, textbooks and mutant rats

Why does every body think Hopkins students love to study? Honestly, I don't get it. It makes no sense.

Sure, I may spend excessive amounts of time in the library. The guys at Café Q might know me by name and start my drink before I order it.

Sometimes I may even refer to Milton S. Eisenhower as my boyfriend on my AIM away message.

But, no, just like almost every normal Hopkins student, I certainly do not love to study.

No, I definitely don't love dragging my lazy self with my fat backpack up the monstrous hill to the library on a Thursday night only to be paraded shamefully in my sweatpants in front of the buses full of the cool kids going to Iguana Cantina or Bar Baltimore or wherever the hell it is that the cool kids always seem to be going.

I don't even think those buses are going anywhere. In fact I think the whole point of them is to make me feel bad about myself for going to the library. Again.

I say this because, on the few occasions I've managed not to procrastinate and get myself dressed and on a bus to club night, the most enjoyable part of my evenings were always sitting on the stupid bus, watching the poor suckers head into the library.

Or maybe I was just a little jealous of them. After all, they were about to get it on with my boyfriend. I bet they were going to get a mondo hot chocolate afterwards, too.

It's not like exciting stuff doesn't happen in the library. Sometimes the fraternities make their pledges yell obscene words and phrases on the quiet study levels.

Other times somebody has a funny cell phone ring that we all accidentally get to hear.

Every once in a while, somebody will trip on a laptop cord that's stretched twenty feet across the room. Usually, that person is me.

Once I was sitting by one of the giant windows next to the courtyard on M-Level when a giant rat walked by on the other side of the glass. I'd never get to see a rat up close like that anywhere else. It was like being at the Baltimore Zoo.

And then, for an added bonus, one of the kids next to me saw the rat. The next thing I knew, he was up on the terrace leaning over the railing, throwing potato chips down for the rat to eat. This rat was already huge. I bet that kid had been feeding it for years.

The more I think about it, the library is the place to be on weeknights. It's open later than most bars. And when the party ends at MSE, you get to go to the after party at the Hut.

The pilgrimage from MSE to the Hut is the real Walk of Shame, no matter what people tell you. I've done the other walk of shame, and to tell you the truth, it wasn't all that shameful.

In fact, I was sort of proud. Not that many Hopkins kids have the social skills to accomplish that whole stay-over-and-walk-back-the-next-morning-with-wrinkled-party-clothes-and-dishveveled-hair-thing.

Do a lap around campus. Wave to a tour group. Prove to those kids and their parents that we really do have lives outside of the library.

You'll be doing the Admissions staff a favor, too. Think how many prospective students will be persuaded to choose Hopkins when they see your post-Walk of Shame glow.

I guess the Walk of Shame to the Hut isn't so bad either, because once you get there, you have to admit

## BROOKE NEVILS

### OUT OF THE BLUE

you're sort of proud to be there too.

If you're at the Hut, you're hardcore. To be a hardcore studier at Hopkins is really saying something.

Besides that, the Hut isn't air-conditioned, so it's a like a sauna with wireless internet.

And it's pretty relaxing in there, especially compared to the sub-zero meat locker that is MSE.

There's no point in bothering to go to sweaty club night when you

can go to the equally sweaty Hut. You can have hardcore fun, right here on campus. I know I did, especially when I finally got home to find that one of my roommates had gotten extremely drunk at one of those club nights.

I wasn't jealous of her at all, even as I stayed up the rest of the night to make sure she was sleeping on her stomach and within arm's reach of the trashcan.

That's because my night had been hot. I'd gotten a couple high quality mixed drinks. I'd had an intimate evening with my boyfriend Milton. I'd even spent a few hours at the spa.

But most importantly of all, I didn't even have to set an alarm for the gym the next morning because, hell, I was up anyway.

Granted, that night I was less than happy. But everything seems better now, because guess where I am?

That's right — at the library, on M-Level again by one of the giant windows.

Today, as I crack open my books for another afternoon with my boyfriend, there's even a grasshopper stuck to the other side of the glass.

Beat that, cool kids.

# NPR editor: "I am by definition a reporter"

Continued from Page B3  
paper — in a surprise move by Denise Palmer, the *Sun's* publisher. He never found out why he was fired.

But the firing may have been a blessing in disguise for Marimow, because he was hired as managing editor of National Public Radio only a few months later; during his introductory speech, Sterne asserted that there is "no higher post in American journalism" than the one Marimow now occupies.

The change from a 34-year career in print journalism to broadcast journalism was "a revelation" for Marimow. But he remained the same as he ever was, "a print journalist at heart," he said. "I am by definition a reporter. Not an editor, not a publisher. A reporter." Despite his continuing commitment to print reporting, Marimow asserted that "At NPR, the bottom line truly is excellent journalism."

But in contrast to his confidence in NPR, he worried that journalistic standards are slipping at many other American news organizations. Specifically, he expressed concern that profit has become the bottom line to some media companies.

The facts back up his concerns. Within the last two weeks, a series of closings and mergers have rocked the daily newspaper world. Major corporations including the Tribune Corp., owner of the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Baltimore Sun*, have recently announced dramatic cuts in newsroom staffs and budgets.

Accusations have also been leveled at television news programs, which stand accused of preferring stories such as the Natalie Holloway case, or archetypal "missing white woman" broadcasts, over more timely and harder-hitting news.

As a result, Marimow said "I

fear for publicly-held companies," and went on to say that the drive to maximize profits forces cost-cutting measures, including layoffs, that hamper the ability of a news organization to cover important stories.

Luckily, Marimow's own organization has mostly been spared. As an example, Marimow cited a story which aired on NPR last November, detailing reports of beatings and guard dog attacks on immigrants awaiting deportation in a Department of Homeland Security facility in New Jersey. To research the story, Marimow sent a reporter around the world to interview former inmates of the prison, something which he said would not have been possible if cost-cutting requirements had reduced staff and travel budgets. Important stories require resources to cover properly, and "if you can't do it right, you shouldn't do it," he said.

Marimow has a long history in Baltimore; he used to visit the city long ago to get away from his parents during his school's winter vacation. Visiting Baltimore recently, less than two years after being fired the *Sun*, "I almost felt like I was an exile."

He fondly recalled his favorite haunts: Alonzo's on Coldspring Lane for cheeseburgers and cold beer, the Owl Bar in the Old Belvedere Hotel for great crab cakes, St. Paul's lacrosse field, the Downtown Athletic Club.

Johns Hopkins also holds fond memories for Marimow; he watched his son Scott, a member of his college lacrosse team, play his last game on JHU's lacrosse field.

In fact, he said, "My affection and real loyalty to Baltimore and Hopkins won't end." For the sake of the city, let's hope he's right.

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Evening Service	6:15 PM	
Rosh Hashana, Day I	Oct. 4	
Morning Service	9:30 AM	
Tashlich (casting bread)	following services	
Evening Service (at The Smokler Center)	7:30 PM	
Rosh Hashana, Day II	Oct. 5	
Morning Service	9:30 AM	
Kol Nidre	Oct. 12	(Candle Lighting 6:15 PM)
Kol Nidre	6:00 PM	
Yom Kippur Day	Oct. 13	
Morning Service	9:30 AM	
Yizkor	(following Musaf approx. 1:00 PM)	
Discussion with the rabbis	3:30 PM	
Mincha	5:00 PM	
Neilah	6:00 PM	(Shofar blowing 7:10 PM)
Reform Services, Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith Center 3509 N. Charles St. / Led by Rabbi Rachel Hertzman, Cantorial Soloist Alanna Sklover		
Erev Rosh Hashana	Oct. 3	(Candle Lighting 6:29 PM)
Evening Service	6:15 PM	
Rosh Hashana, Day I	Oct. 4	
Morning Service	9:30 AM	
Kol Nidre	Oct. 12	(Candle Lighting 6:15 PM)
Kol Nidre	6:30 PM	
Yom Kippur Day	Oct. 13	
Morning Service	9:30 AM	
Discussion with the rabbis	3:30 PM	(at the Glass Pavilion)
Yizkor & Mincha	5:00 PM	
Neilah	6:00 PM	

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Rilo Kiley opens fall Sonar lineup

Jenny Lewis and band of former child stars bring melodic indie pop to local venue

BY ALEXANDRA BEGLEY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

How do you kick up some hype for the grand re-opening of an alternate music venue/dance club in a town where seedy Hammerjacks and Iguana Cantina reign supreme? If you're the owners of Sonar, an edgy three-room nightclub in the downtown club district, you dazzle the public with a killer lineup ranging from the Pixies to Henry Rollins to Kings of Leon. And then you kick off that list with a band everyone can love: Rilo Kiley.

The group's cross-country tour is just heating up. The night before playing Sonar, they were in Madison Square Garden opening for Coldplay. (Don't cry kids; it could be worse.)

However, they seemed somewhat shell-shocked by the experience and quickly expressed their relief at being the headliner at a smaller venue. Lead singer Jenny Lewis even called the filled to capacity Sonar lounge "normal."

Despite fans labeling Rilo Kiley "sell-outs" after the release of *More Adventurous* and with the big-name band opening gig, they certainly weren't acting like sell-outs. They didn't deconstruct classic songs; they didn't just play ones from their new album; they didn't install expensive, seizure-inducing lighting.

Instead, Lewis came out on stage, toasting the crowd with her bottle of Red Stripe, and sat down behind her keyboard to play "It's a Hit." They delved into older albums (if you can call 2001's *Take Offs and Landings* old) and had the crowd in their hand after "Does He Love You," from their newest album.

Having stayed fairly consistent over three albums, four years, different labels and growing popularity, there wasn't really any room for the band to screw up. The crowd knew it



ALEXANDRA BEGLEY/NEWS-LETTER  
**The members of Rilo Kiley, fronted by lead singer Jenny Lewis, rocked Sonar with hits from their new release.**

was going to be good.

As long as everyone stayed in line and heard at least one of their numerous favorite songs, everyone knew they could go home and gush about the best show to hit Baltimore so far. And that was exactly how it went. No surprises, no frills, no ego: just a solidly executed show with music so familiar that it was like watching a natural process. It was kind of like photosynthesis with a cute face.

The whole show was just classic Rilo Kiley; in a word, perfection. The crowd sang along to every song, old and new, and the onstage chemistry was something more than tangible — it was almost sickeningly heartwarming. The entire band seemed so comfortable knowing that they didn't have to prove anything to the adoring crowd. And the uncontrollable grins reflected a certain sensuality between Lewis and lead guitarist

Blake Sennett (of *Salute Your Shorts* fame) that prompted one fan to shout, "Oh my God, you're so cute!"

Some fans who'd seen them multiple times commented that this was the best show they'd seen. It seems that whatever ego Rilo Kiley had developed from being unconditionally adored by fans and music critics alike had been crushed by their Madison Square Garden show.

The band even conceded to play a crowd favorite "The Frug," which they never play. Not only did they play it, but Lewis begrudgingly conceded to do the dances as well. She was smiling by the end of it, though.

When the band left the stage, the cheers from the crowd were almost cheers of desperation: No one wanted to see them leave. Seeing the stage lights go down on the stage cluttered with beer bottles

and mic stands was like that last day of summer camp when you watch your new best friends leave on the bus and you can feel your little ten-year-old heart breaking. People believe so much in this band and love them so much, it was painful to see them turn their backs on us.

Eventually, however, Sennett and Lewis returned with one guitar and one mic and played three moving final songs. In true punk rock form, they ignored the chants for "Glendora" and played exactly what they wanted to. "Better Son/Daughter" brought the show to a sweet and emotional close, with Lewis letting the crowd belt out the chorus before joining her fans in the pit to sing the last verse.

Sonar could not have picked a better band to set off their grand reopening. It was a safe and sure bet to draw in the old crowd back in and keep them hooked for more. Rilo Kiley didn't have to do much to grab the crowd; their natural simple charm and talent were enough.

It was good to know that another beloved indie group hadn't crossed over to the dark side of pop culture (thanks, Killers).

## Expo showcases creators' talents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1  
background, we put out things we think are good, so like music, writing, and comics."

This desire to produce books and images they liked was reflected by every exhibitor present. Each creator seemed to be promoting a comic or a book that was unique and important to him or her.

"It's pretty much, you do it for yourself. If you don't, then you're doing it for the wrong reason. You can tell when people don't have the heart," said Frans Boukas, who writes and draws for SugarBoukas, a company based out of Silver Spring, Md.

"What's important about independent comics is the ability for the everyman to get out there and not have to depend on the publisher," said attendee Jackie Mancini. "I don't like superheroes. I like stories about regular people. I like really stylized depictions. You can tell the artists from independent comics a lot more as opposed to artists from Dark Horse."

Dark Horse is one of the mainstream comic companies that is currently making a name for itself, with titles such as *Hellboy* and *Sin City*, which were adapted into movies in 2004 and early 2005 respectively. It is this recent run of successful, comic-based movies that has a lot of the media turning to comics for inspiration. Movies such as *Fantastic Four*, *Road to Perdition* and *Batman Begins* have enjoyed considerable success, creating a lot of attention for companies like Marvel, DC, Dark Horse and even the smaller press. This doesn't mean, however, that every comic creator is swimming in offers for movie deals. Many of the creators at SPX discussed either losing money or breaking even.

"If you look at how many [creators] are here, compare that to how many of them are going to break even. It's like having 2,000 cupcakes at a bake sale, and you've brought more," said Ben Claassen III, who writes a semi-political, always-hilarious weekly strip called *Dirtdarm* for the *Washington City Paper*.

For most, the money poured into the art is well worth it. "We

make enough money to put out the next issue. It's not a goal to make money ourselves, but it'd be nice to make money for better publishing, funding merchandise," said Kristoffer Kjolberg, a comic creator from Norway. With a group of six friends, Kjolberg formed Dongery, a comics company based out of Oslo. They are currently visiting the U.S. to promote their work — incredibly stylistic, confrontational and controversial pieces. "Comics are a big part of our lives. We've been saving up our money for a year to come to America, and we've been spending all of it. For us it's our vacation."

"Like any art, money has nothing to do with what you're drawing. If it's not meant to make money, then it won't, and money shouldn't be a consideration," said Jordan Crane, creator of *Keeping Two*, a stylistic, well-paced, powerful comic about the internal pain of losing a child. "The best promotion is a good book. If you don't have the time, don't kid around and bother putting out a bad book."

Time, in the end, seemed to be the key ingredient to the success of the event. While well-attended, the SPX could not guarantee that each exhibitor was able to get his or her work properly noticed, or much merchandise sold. In this respect, the event most likely did not succeed. As a cultural experience, however, the expo proved inspiring.

There is a certain dedication to the medium in the small press community that is really astounding: a die-hard ethic to continue in the indie comic industry despite looming financial failures. This devotion of time was what fueled the event and the exhibitors. There was an excitement in the air that seemed to say this showing was just the beginning for the exhibitors and attendees, even for creators like Crane, who have been in the industry for 15 years.

"It'll slowly all come together. Eventually I hope to be able to make enough money to think about living off of it," said Crane. "I'm going to be a very old man drawing comics. To have a giant line of my books on the shelf. That's my ultimate goal."

## Kings of Leon stun Baltimore

BY LAUREN HILL  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

It has been an interesting journey for the Followill brothers: growing up in a beat-up car in Tennessee with their father, a traveling Pentecostal preacher; discovering sex, drugs and rock and roll after their father left the church; forming a band with their cousin Matthew Followill; signing with RCA; and having their first album nearly go double platinum in the UK.

Many have attempted to label the Kings of Leon, so named after their father, as the Lynyrd Skynyrd of the 21st century, the Strokes of the South. But no matter the label, the Kings have an appeal that has brought them success and a healthy turnout for their show at Baltimore's very own Sonar.

Advertised as the "Sin City Tour," sponsored by Camel Cigarettes, walking into the club was like entering an alternate TV ad universe where the girls are hot and the nicotine flows like water. From the moment you stepped in the club, a rent-a-hipster pulled you aside to talk to you about the many wonders cigarettes have to offer.

The main area was crawling with scantily clad pole dancers and amusements like the "Chapel of Lust," where concertgoers had the opportunity to take a matrimonial snapshot with the Elvis impersonator of their dreams.

The pre-show entertainment provided by the Features, another Tennessee band, was well received. The group's sharp post-punk numbers and theatrical antics proved thoroughly enjoyable. Between acts, the go-go dancers took the stage, sauntering around in saloon-reminiscent lingerie, and the beer guzzling paused for a while to allow for mass ogling.

After the last of the diamond-encrusted harem hightailed it off the stage, an epic display of lights and chanting appropriate only for Bowie or God ushered in the Kings of Leon.

They were greeted by screaming admirers and answered them with equal intensity. Racing from



ALEX BEGLEY/NEWS-LETTER  
**Caleb Followill of Kings of Leon wins the crowd with his natural charm.**

song to song with extreme vigor, they played an equal and nearly complete mix of songs from their first and second albums, *Youth and Young Manhood*, and *Aha Shake Heartbreak*. The set was one part gritty — including songs like "Four Kicks," and "Wasted Time," with Caleb growling cockily through his trademark squinty cringe expression — one part sweet, with Caleb's pouty twang communicating such original emotions as loneliness on tour; and two parts carefree, head-bobbing anthems of excess and girls.

With pure gold riffs and infectious beats, the Kings had the entire crowd dancing, clapping and singing along to classics like "King of the Rodeo," and the cha-cha-like "Soft," whose lyrics would really hit home with Bob Dole.

The delivery of the songs was extremely straightforward, barely varying from the recorded version, but it was embellished with a couple of relatively uninspiring solos from lead guitarist Matthew. What they lacked in talent, however, they made up for in image. With his Elton-like sex appeal, Caleb was somehow able to take chicken legs in tight white pants beyond tacky — all the way to

disturbingly hot.

The rest of the band served as an appealing backdrop of aloofness, with bassist Jared brooding in the corner, Nathan still sporting the hermit-style beard popular with the band in the *Youth and Young Manhood* era, and smoke proudly billowing from the Camel wedged between Matthew's guitar pegs.

While their performance didn't have much to add to their songs, the Kings' attitude, beautiful bittersweet melodies and the energy that their songs translated to the audience made for a very good live show.

Some would say this new tour/ad campaign combo redefines selling out. But with more and more smoking bans being imposed, Baltimore is one of a shrinking number of cities where concertgoers can enjoy a few coffin nails with their live music.

Somewhere, some Truth campaigner's head is exploding, but hey, it's a free country. The Kings of Leon put on the same awesome show that they would have anyway, and the pole dancers and extra glitz weren't a bad addition either. In the words of Ian Dury (almost), sex and Camels and rock and roll are very good indeed.

## Club owner contemplates future

BY STEPHANIE YU  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Lonnie Fisher, the owner of Sonar, one of the top concert venues in Baltimore, sits in a room tucked behind Sonar's main stage, which usually functions as the pre-show dressing room for acclaimed musicians.

Here, everyday objects are seen in a different light. Instead of being just a leather couch, it could be a leather couch that was sat on by Jenny Lewis, the frontwoman of the band Rilo Kiley, who played here earlier this month. Instead of merely being a used plastic spoon, it could be a plastic spoon that Kool Keith used to scoop out peanut butter from a jar of Skippy before his show on September 15. Instead of being another yellowing microwave, it could be a microwave that Interpol used to reheat leftovers.

It's almost harrowing to think that that maybe the members of Interpol use microwaves, that maybe the members of Interpol eat food. The mental image of Carlos D eating a hot pocket becomes almost too much to bear.

Indeed, in recent months, under the guidance of its enterprising owner, Lonnie Fisher, Sonar's dressing room has seen the presence of some big names in the indie scene. While Sonar is gradually gaining more acclaim for hosting the best and brightest in music, its growth was an evolutionary process, centered on adapting to the often unpredictable whims of the American dance scene or, according to Fisher, "the vibe."

For an owner of a concert venue, it's all about the vibe. "The vibe, without sounding too existential, is the collective attitude of the crowd. If everyone's there and having a good time, it's a good vibe. It's like a collective energy," he explains. "For me, it's not about chasing the money; I'm chasing the vibe."

Fisher is balding at 36, and his height does not top 5'5", but he makes up for his stature with an inexplicably sonorous and booming voice, most likely attained from years of com-

manding countless raves and thriving dance parties.

Growing up in the city of Baltimore, Fisher lived under the care of his single mother. On weekends, when Fisher's mom went out on dates, he would throw parties for his neighborhood friends. Throughout the nineties, Fisher felt "the vibe," hosting some of the biggest DJ events on the east coast under Ultraworld, one of the largest producers of electronic music events in the country. He played the latest in drum and bass, jungle and multiple sub-genres of electronica, simply because that was what the crowd moved to.

For me, it's not about chasing the money, I'm chasing the vibe.

—LONNIE FISHER,  
OWNER OF SONAR

The past five years have been the turning point for the electronic dance movement. According to Fisher, "People began to focus too much on the DJ and not about interacting with the crowd. By the end of the 90s, the entire rave scene pretty much fell apart."

From the ashes of the electronic music craze, however, came the indie dance scene. "Each generation has a place where it can find that 'dance party' vibe," says Fisher. In the 70s it was in the discothèque, in the 90s it was at the raves. Now the tides were turning towards the shiny new indie movement, which came as retaliation against a rave scene that had reached bacchanalian proportions. As opposed to the mechanical, seizure-inducing intensity of the rave culture, the indie movement, while still retaining the craze that defines every dance movement, had a more lo-fi quality.

With this new movement on the horizon, Fisher's Sonar Lounge offi-

cially opened in 2001 in Canton. It started as a coffee shop and nightclub. Sonar's popularity, restrained by a 100-person capacity, forced Fisher to move to a bigger location. The freshly gutted warehouse space on East Saratoga Street was the prime venue for his new endeavor.

The Sonar Lounge became Sonar in an attempt to drop the "lounge" image. It also hosted Taxlo (short for the Taxidermy Lodge), weekly dance parties, which encompass everything from Britpop and post-punk to hip hop and Baltimore Club.

Earlier this September, Sonar had its grand reopening, featuring three dance nights in a row, a performance by Rilo Kiley and a Taxlo super party that accommodated over 800 people. "It was a signal of the official ending of the mindset that we're an electronic music club. Now we're a live music venue," says Fisher. Throughout the months of September and October, Sonar will be hosting both several up-and-coming bands and the biggest veterans including the Decemberists, the Bravery, Ghostface Killah, Social Distortion, Gang of Four and, of course, the Pixies.

Next Friday, the Pixies will be coming to Baltimore. At approximately 8 p.m., Sonar will open its doors and welcome the masses of indie superfans to its main stage where Frank Black, the grandfather of alternative music, will spew his songs into the microphone.

The bigger story here is not this legendary act but the venue where they will be performing. Fisher lights up when he talks about future plans, bands he would love to have at his venue — among them Hot Hot Heat, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Spoon. As he reclines in the black leather couch that seated so many famous artists before him, Fisher is no longer just the owner of a concert venue, but a king sitting upon his throne, contemplating all the bigger things in store for the Sonar backstage dressing room.



# Vagabond stages Coward's one-acts

BY PATRICK KENNEDY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Producing a bad rendition of one of Noel Coward's pieces is one of the most difficult labors in modern theatre. Set mostly in the 1930s and rife with meticulous comedy, there just isn't a lot that can go wrong with the English playwright's society satires. Plays like *Hay Fever* and *The Blythe Spirit* are simply too structured and time-specific to invite the experimental theatrics that regularly disgrace presentations of comparable works. Nor has over-acting ever been a threat to Coward's canon. Almost across the board, the more outlandish, the better.

This is probably why the Vagabond Players' latest production, a set of three of Coward's one-act parodies, struck me as more of a test of comic stamina than acting talent. By most measures, the first show of the new season was satisfying. In part, the company was lucky to find actors who know how to infuse Coward's characters with the devilishness they deserve. But part of it might also lie in the conventional wisdom of staging Coward's small-scale, intimate pieces in small-scale, intimate theatres.

Each directed by a different director, the troupe's three sketches were all set between the same set of neutral walls and tall doors, minimalist surroundings that only shifted the focus to the night's caricatures. As the night went on, the pieces grew progressively sharper, moving from the Cote d'Azur to the apartments of South London.

The first performance, director Sharon Weaver's *Ways and Means*, was a tale of Depression-era desperation among the fallen upper classes. Their destitute, angst-ridden aristocrats Stella (Beth Weber) and Toby Cartwright (Michael Stricker) bemoan their fate, clad in silk pajamas and lounging in a resort hotel. But when a burglar (Richard Peek) makes his way into their apartment, it dawns on the couple that maybe, with nothing left to lose, pulling off a robbery or two might be the thing to get them back on their feet. It's sort of like Bonnie and Clyde — except with chronic neurosis.

From these classy accommodations, Vagabond's production shifted to the backstage world of a second-class variety show in director Sherry Eden Barber's "Red Peppers." After a bungled stage exit, lifetime entertainers George and Lily Pepper (Justin Purvis and Dyana Neal) find themselves locked in a quarrel with each other, not to mention their show's management. Emotions flair as everyone in the theatre's management lends (or yells) their opinion of the Pepper's onstage debacle.

However, *Ways and Means* and *Red Peppers* were a little too reassuring, even cute. Since each is, essentially, a love story, I shouldn't be surprised that Weaver and Barber felt compelled to inject a few moments of uncharacteristic tenderness. Though

neither moralizes, the first two pieces end on such silly notes that they compromise their own satiric force.

But that is a charge that nobody can level at the third, and best, selection of the evening, director Charlie Mitchell's "Fumed Oak." As the lights go up, we find a typical lower-middle class family, the Gows, sitting down to their breakfast. As Mrs. Gow (Susan Scher) bickers with her placid mother (Joan Crooks) and whining daughter (Rachel Morgan), her husband Henry (Richard Peek) sits silent amid a three-way war of wills. But in a misanthropic twist that would make Moliere well up with jealousy, Henry decides that evening to knock back a drink or two and pour his concealed irritation out to his family. Slapping his mother-in-law, yelling at his

daughter, and throwing his dinner out the door, the role is a masterpiece of existential fury. What starts off as a complacent dumbness in Henry mutates into a matter-of-fact nastiness.

It would also be easy to argue that Vagabond's latest production did not allow its directors' unique perspectives to show. Yet works like *Ways and Means* and *Fumed Oak* were designed to be acted in a precise way. While Coward's scenarios do not allow interpretive freedom, it is easy to feel the delight that any actor experiences when playing one of his outrageous characters. A Coward production like Vagabond's one-act series came together not because it offered a re-interpretation of its source, but because it projects such revels in the playwright's most hilarious devices.

## The Aristocrats hilariously incisive

BY ALEX TRAUM  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

*The Aristocrats* is a documentary that analyzes, deconstructs and probes its subject in such an original, rigorous manner that it stands up to the finest scholarship of our age. This film takes its cue neither from some PBS special on the Big Bang nor from a Discovery Channel nature program. Rather, the experts here are one hundred leading comics and the topic is the dirtiest joke ever told.

Created and directed by Penn Jillette and Paul Provenza, *The Aristocrats* traces the history, theory and a plethora of versions (I counted approximately 70) of a single filthy joke whose punch line is the film's title. The punch line, however, is rendered irrelevant, since it is in the setup of the joke where the humor lies. This buildup is an improvised routine, compared by several comics to a jazz solo — it's more about the singer than the song. Originally a vaudeville act, the joke evolved into an insider's weapon. It has stood as an entry in comics' arsenals that would be used to show off to fellow comics, all while trying to outdo one another by lasting longer or being more extreme.

The movie features George Carlin, Whoopi Goldberg, Drew Carey, Gilbert Gottfried, Bob Saget, Phyllis Diller and many others who give their own renditions of the joke as well as their thoughts about the infamous routine. Several of the best versions featured include a fabulously disgusting rendition from Bob Saget, another by Kevin Pollak done with a perfect Christopher Walken impersonation, and one by Sarah Silverman who tells it as if it weren't a joke at all. But perhaps the version that surpasses the rest is Gilbert Gottfried's. Three weeks after Sept. 11 at the Friar Club's roast of Hugh Hefner, Gottfried abandoned his original routine to rant and rave through an extremely obscene variation of "the aristocrats", which had the audience and fellow comics keeling over in fits of laughter.

*The Aristocrats* is more than just filmed standup comedy. In this documentary, the joke is examined in its societal context. Chris Rock reflects that before the comedy world opened its doors to black comics, such taboos did not constrain African American entertainers, as getting booked in mainstream clubs or on television was not a prospect.

Phyllis Diller remembers that in her early years comics were forbidden to be lewd or even suggestive. While it might be said that such a vile and obscene joke as the Aristocrats does not warrant such a thorough discussion, it lends the movie some irony that balances the filth which consumes the majority of the movie.

To say that *The Aristocrats* is plagued by filth, obscenity and other topics that will make you gag in revulsion is not a criticism. Its unabashed rejection of political correctness and embrace of all things vulgar and offensive are what make *The Aristocrats* a film that will leave you paralyzed in shock and teary-eyed with laughter.

### The Aristocrats

**Starring:** Gilbert Gottfried, Bob Saget, Sarah Silverman  
**Director:** Paul Provenza  
**Run Time:** 89 min  
**Rating:** Unrated  
**Showing at:** The Charles Theatre

## Carrel shines in raunchy but sweet Virgin

BY MELISSA FELDsher  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

There's just something about Steve Carell. Maybe it's his vaguely blank way of staring out at you on the promotional posters for *The 40 Year-Old Virgin*. Or maybe it's his ability to eat a big red candle as Brick Tamland in *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*. But however you look at it, Carell is fast making a career out of playing lovably "incomplete" men.

In *The 40 Year-Old Virgin*, a movie that actually can extend that one joke throughout an entire running time Carell is lead man as Andy Stitzer. Directed by Judd Apatow and co-written by Carell himself, the movie opens in Andy's apartment — a shrine to perpetual adolescence complete with mint-condition action figure collections large enough to make any Hopkins engineer proud. We go on to learn that despite Andy's slightly arrested development, he is the prototypical nice guy: He rides his bike to work at a nearby electronics store, hangs out with his elderly neighbors and is

pure and wholesome enough to knock Mary Tyler Moore for a loop.

But once Andy's low-brow co-workers realize his purity is not indicative of psychotic mass murdering tendencies but of massive sexual inexperience — tipped off by his comparison of a woman's breast to a "bag of sand", they set out to get their pal laid. They first drag him to a nightclub in search of drunk women with cravings for French toast and then hire a prostitute that may or may not actually be a woman. In the meantime, Andy is slowly wooing single mom Trish (Catherine Keener) with more conventional romantic tactics. Heaven convinces her teenage daughter that he is sort of, well, cool.

One of the most memorable scenes is Andy's chest waxing, which I was horrified to learn was not acting at all but Carell actually getting his hair ripped off. To me, this only adds to Carell's extremely likeable presence and his "anything for a joke attitude." During Carell's tenure at "The Daily Show," he once ate a spoonful of Crisco for a sketch just to see Jon Stewart's horrified reaction.

*The 40 Year-Old Virgin* does its



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.THE40YEAROLDVIRGIN.COM](http://www.the40yearoldvirgin.com)  
**Steve Carrel and Katherine Keener in Virgin's tale of innocence lost.**

best to be a "frat pack" movie like this summer's *Wedding Crashers* or last summer's *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, but it turns out more like a slightly perverse romantic comedy. Carell manages to pull off the lead role

and hold the picture together by being naively charming amid his co-workers' occasional bursts of raunchiness. However, his supporting characters don't have what it takes to provide truly side-splitting improvisation or delivery that would pepper the plot. One can only wonder what the film would have been like had the supporting roles filled by other players in Carell's comedy team, like Will Ferrell or Luke Wilson.

While *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* delivers its share of memorable one-liners, which college kids can quote ad nauseam, this movie surprisingly lacks good-quality dirty jokes. For a movie about sex, *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* is startlingly more sweet than sour. Yet, Carell's debut as a front man is not in vain. Funny, competent, thoughtful, *Virgin* follows an innocent nerd through the mire of America's hyper-sexed culture.

### The 40 Year-Old Virgin

**Starring:** Steve Carell, Katherine Keener, Paul Rudd, Seth Rogen  
**Director:** Judd Apatow  
**Run Time:** 1 hour, 50 minutes  
**Rating:** R  
**Showing at:** AMC Towson Commons, R/C Hollywood Cinema

## New Vibrations

### The Rolling Stones A Bigger Bang Virgin Records Sept. 6, 2005



The Rolling Stones add yet another footnote to their improbably long career as the archetypal classic rock band. Yet unlike past attempts to create a new Stones sound (*Bridges to Babylon*) or merely to repackaging formerly glory (*40 Licks*), *A Bigger Bang* semi-successfully comes up with some songs to showcase the Stones' swagger.

The Rolling Stones have always had a deliciously vulgar quality to their music, which shows through in some of their more memorable new songs. On the shuffling "Rain Fall Down," Mick Jagger, a man older than my father, can talk about having sex without invoking images of Viagra or creepy old men. "The Street of Love" is arguably a better ballad of heartbreak than many previous attempts, with Jagger whining and weeping over Charles Watt's swelling drums and Keith Richard's characteristically scratchy guitars. "Back of my Hand" even sounds like it fits on one of the Stones' best albums, *Exile on Main Street*.

The record has its fair share of duds. "This Place is Empty," is laboriously sung by Richards and "Sweet Neo Con," a stab at the Bush administration, seems out of place for a band that's never been about political messages. In fact, part of the fun of the Rolling Stones is their ability to stand apart from any sort

of relevance — they may not have drawn upon any musical influences since the days of Muddy Waters, but they have perfected their jaded, sex-soaked sound.

Perhaps the greatest mystique of the Rolling Stones is not how many women Mick Jagger has slept with or how many times Keith Richards had his blood changed in Switzerland. No, it's how they can continually sell out shows and get crowds to hand over their hard-earned hundreds to see a bunch of guys who qualify for senior discounts at McDonald's. Granted, they draw pretty heavily on the nostalgia factor: The number of 70s and 80s Stones' concert t-shirts I saw that bore stretch marks at their Giant's Stadium concert this summer was substantial.

Yet if *A Bigger Bang* sends any sort of message, it's that the Rolling Stones still have what it takes to make people sit up and listen. Continually verging on self-parody, Mick, Keith, Charlie and Ron prove that behind all the spectacle and showmanship, they're just accomplished musicians that love to play the blues.

— Melissa Feldsher

### Nightmare of You Nightmare of You East West Sept. 13, 2005



From the ashes of defunct post-hardcore bands The Movielife and Rival Schools comes a phoenix that could set any hipster ablaze. If you didn't already know from the bold letters above, I am talking about Long Island's Nightmare of You. NOY began by releasing five songs online to showcase their new sound and leave the public waiting. Over two years later, *Nightmare of You* has finally released their debut album, and it was well worth the wait.

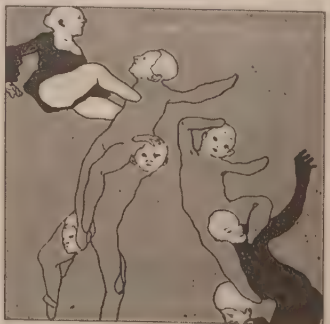
Brandon Reilly now stands in front of the mic instead of in the shadows, and it looks like he has something to say, as demonstrated by song titles like "In the Bathroom is Where I Want You" and "Heaven Runs on Oil." There is something in his voice that comes from past decades yet also seems fresh and innovative, like a fusion of Morrissey and Billie Joe Armstrong. In record stores, *Nightmare of You* is advertised as The Killers meets My Chemical Romance. This is a poor comparison, but it makes one good point: Scene kids are going to start dancing. With dark, funky bass-lines and infectious beats,

nearly every track causes toes to start tapping uncontrollably. Among the songs that truly reveal the band's potential, "Thumbelina," with its saccharine melodies and light guitars, is almost too poppy. However, upon looking at the lyrics, one realizes that "Thumbelina" is the story of a promiscuous woman who gets herself into a great deal of trouble.

It's their balance between sexual blatancy and sweetness, and upbeat dance-rock and balladry that makes *Nightmare of You*'s debut even more amazing than expected. This album will be enjoyed over a wide spectrum of musical tastes, such as fans of The Smiths, The Stills, and Straylight Run (Strange how they all begin with S). Basically, anyone who could appreciate alines like, "I'm utterly depraved, let's do it on your terrace," will fall in love with *Nightmare of You*.

— Joe Micali

### Clap Your Hands Say Yeah Clap Your Hands Say Yeah Self-Release Oct. 11, 2005



*Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* is actually pretty good. Their CD is a very nice listen — at least, the first half is. Just be warned that the first track sounds like it was recorded with a razor, with digital distortion popping throughout. The self-titled release starts as a kind of carnival sing-along until, on the second track, the first real song kicks in with a full Williamsburg band. The lead singer's voice is difficult to get used to, since there hasn't been a voice this abrasive since Thom Yorke.

There is a lot of energy in the best tracks, "Let the Cool Goddess Rust Away" and "Over and Over Again (Lost and Found)," as the young band calls to mind influences ranging from The Stone Roses to The Velvet Underground to U2. However, *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* seems to be hitting on something original and engaging even if the lyrics are basically all unintelligible.

The CD does disappoint in its second half, with forgettable songs like "Heavy Metal." It's a little frustrating

when, after enjoying the first half of a CD, the second goes straight downhill. Instead of releasing a full album, *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* could have just dropped an EP and generated a lot of buzz with the good songs they had. Their single from this record, "The Skin Off My Yellow Country Teeth" is among the better on the album, but not the best.

The music isn't the most original in the world, but the melodies are compelling, which says more for them than most bands. As far as the indie scene goes, these guys don't seem to be going in any particularly groundbreaking direction. What they have going for them are select tracks where it all comes together — the dirty sounding guitars, the high screaming desperate vocals and the distant dreamscape carnival keyboards all combine to create a sort of rocking voyage. *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* do show promise; let's wait for the next album.

— Adam Lempel

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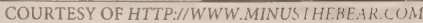
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# Monument trio gives classical music power

With the last bold chordal stretch of the final trio, the audience was left speechless, capable only of clapping our hearts out.





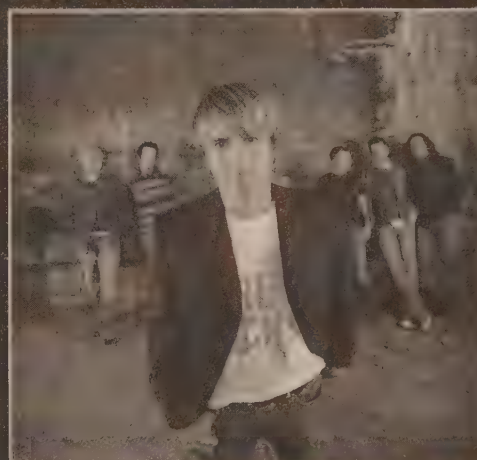

Luckily for the purists, the band is happy with its label, Suicide Squeeze Records, a Seattle indie operated by a handful of people and artists. But don't be surprised if you see them on TV in the next few years.




# Rams Head Live!

20 Market Place • Baltimore, MD • 410.244.1131 • [www.ramsheadlive.com](http://www.ramsheadlive.com)

Located in  
Power Plant Live!

 <p><b>The B-52 's.</b> (9.30)</p>	 <p><b>Mr. Greengenes.</b> (10.1)</p>	 <p><b>Pat McGee Band.</b> (10.7)</p>	 <p><b>Blues Traveler.</b> (10.8)</p>
<div>SEP 29</div> <p><b>Maysa</b></p>	<div>OCT 2</div> <p><b>Foreigner</b></p>	<div>OCT 3</div> <p><b>Busta Rhymes</b></p>	<div>OCT 4</div> <p><b>Dave Matthews Tribute Band.</b></p>
<div>OCT 5</div> <p><b>Lucinda Williams.</b></p>	<div>OCT 9</div> <p><b>Bjorn Again.</b></p>	<div>OCT 11</div> <p><b>Nickel Creek.</b></p>	<div>OCT 15</div> <p><b>Susan Tedeschi.</b></p>
<div>OCT 16</div> <p><b>The Fiery Furnaces.</b></p>	<div>OCT 27</div> <p><b>Veruca Salt.</b></p>	<div>OCT 29</div> <p><b>The Legwarmers.</b></p>	<div>NOV 2</div> <p><b>Bob Weir and RatDog.</b></p>

**Cheap beer with your college ID**



Come see a concert and bring your college ID to get  
**\$1.95 Fordham drafts (16oz.)**  
during the show!

**Take the Metro**

Rams Head Live! is one stop away on the Metro Subway. Get off at the Market Place exit.

Join our e-mail list: [INFO@RAMSHEADLIVE.COM](mailto:INFO@RAMSHEADLIVE.COM)

THIS IS WHAT MAKES BALTIMORE **ROCK!**



# CARTOONS, ETC.

## your Horoscope



**ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)**  
With or without covered grades, you've probably discovered that Hopkins classes can be a little rough. Say hello to D-Level.



**TAURUS: (APRIL 20-MAY 20)**  
Colder refrigerators mean colder beer. Colder beer means better taste. Thus, frat boy, perhaps it's time to upgrade your cooler to a fridge.



**GEMINI: (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**  
Weather is such a fickle thing. One day it's cold, the next day it's hot as balls. This week, dress in layers to overcome the craziness.



**CANCER: (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**  
Coming from a state that isn't Maryland or New Jersey, you've got a whole different perspective on this place. Put that to use and transfer.



**LEO: (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)**  
Hopefully you'll get over that bad habit of screaming obscenities at your roommate in your sleep this week. But don't count on it.



**VIRGO: (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)**  
Guys and Dolls may be your favorite musical, but that doesn't mean anyone wants to hear you sing showtunes in the john.



**LIBRA: (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22)**  
Will you ever get a new roommate? One that doesn't scream obscenities at you in his sleep? Chances are, a new one will be just as bad as the first.



**SCORPIO: (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21)**  
Stop all this rubber bracelet nonsense. It's nice that it's all for a cause, but the whole movement lost it's meaning ten months ago when they became available at 7-11.



**SAGITTARIUS: (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21)**  
Wearing layer after layer is what your Gemini friends are going to suggest to you this week, but the truth is, we made that stuff up for laughs.



**CAPRICORN: (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19)**  
Those sunglasses you bought at the mall may have looked good when you were checking yourself out in the CVS mirror, but the truth is, they're ugly as hell.



**AQUARIUS: (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18)**  
Disgusting habits are not just inappropriate in the classroom, they're inappropriate when you're on a date as well. Get those burps out beforehand.



**PISCES: (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)**  
Mandals are those disgusting sandals that a lot of guys around campus wear and think look good. Sometimes they are worn with socks. Student fashion sucks.

## JHU Jumble

by Ann Renee Angiulo

A NEUTRON WALKS INTO A BAR...



WHAT DOES THE BARTENDER SAY?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER: DISGRUNTLED

WRBNO



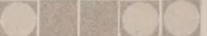
KREGE



NELAO



YACFN



TOHUM



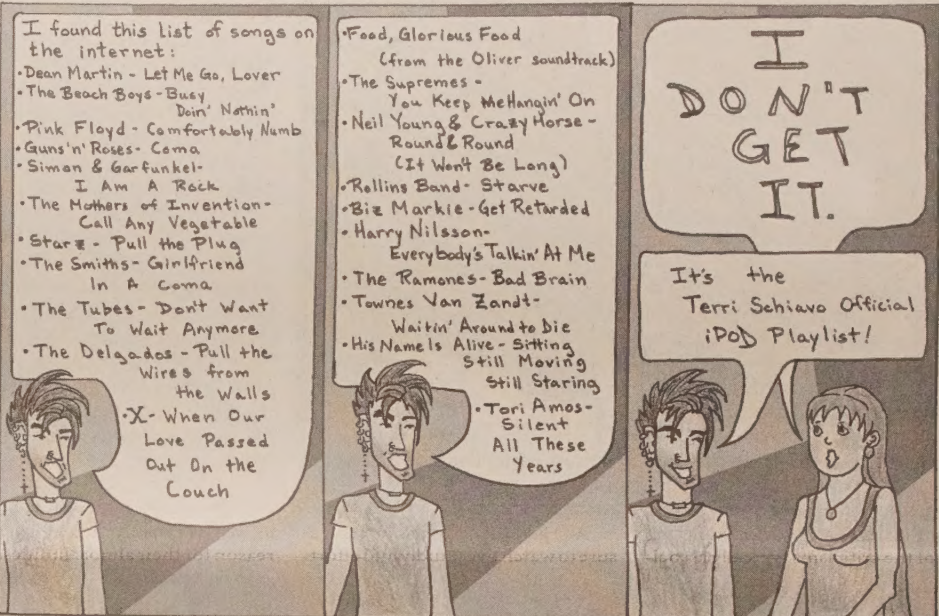
## Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



## Master of Arts

by Michael Specian



Illustrated by Lynn Carlson

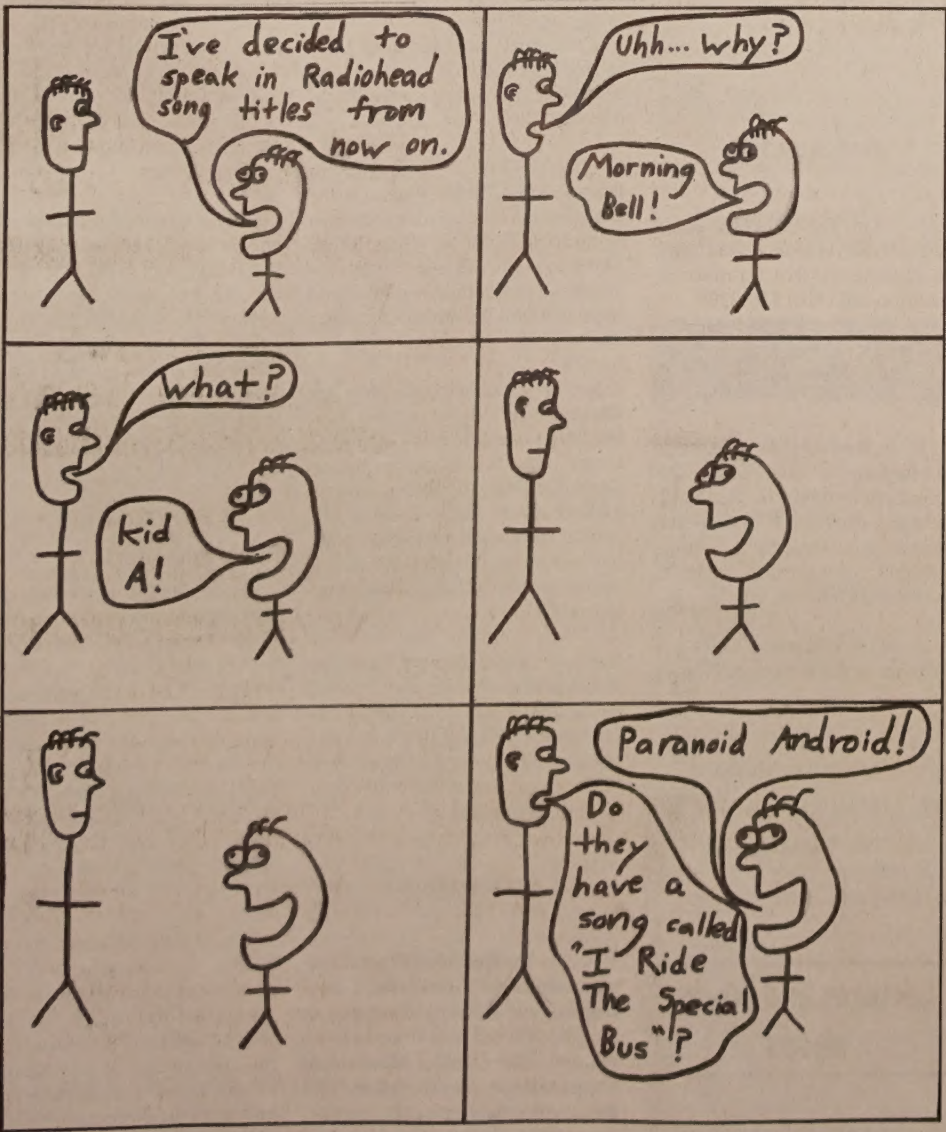
## Slapdash

by Ann Renee Angiulo



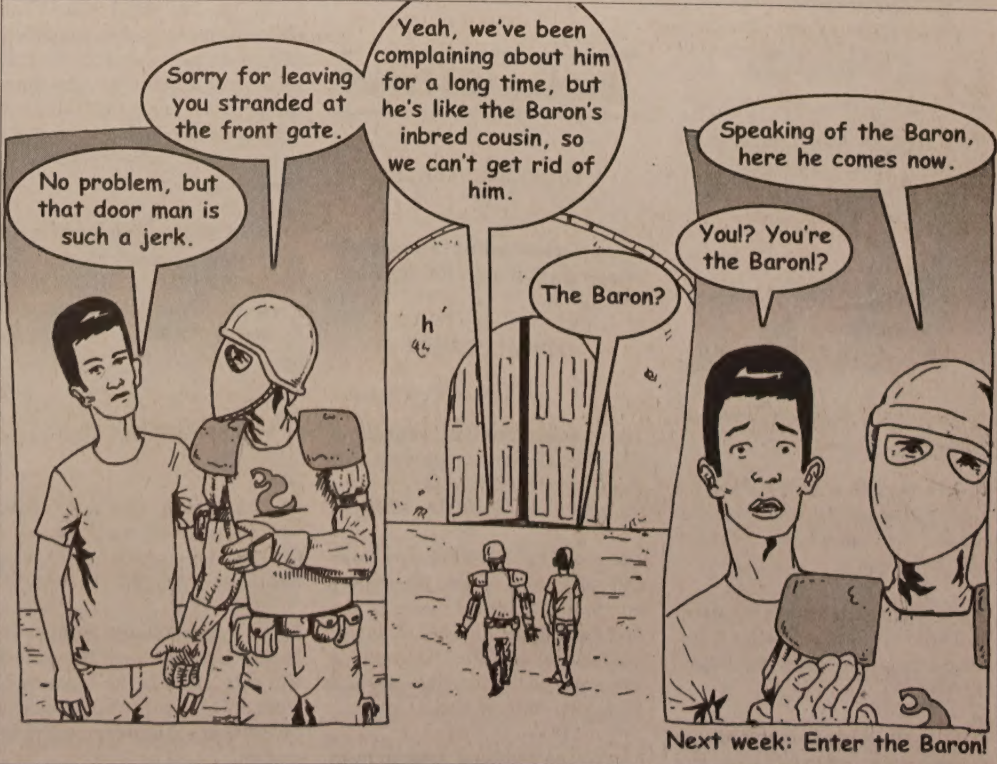
## Tweezer & Bob

by Matt Diamond



## V.E.N.O.M.

by William Parschalk



Next week: Enter the Baron!



CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

New Order bassist DJs the Ottobar

This Thursday, Sept. 29, 2005 the Ottobar is giving early house fans a special treat by bringing in Peter Hook of influential post-punk group Joy Division, and the even more succesful early electronic rock group New Order. Hook, who still plays bass for New Order, will be there not to strut with his bass per usual, will instead serve as — a DJ.

Hook is being brought to the Ottobar by Filter Magazine and Virgin Atlantic as part of his “240 Hour Party People DJ Tour.” Along with him will be DJ Matt Walker and new rock act Modernage. Walker looks to play “underground” dance music, which could mean anything from acid house to disco punk, or possibly both. Unlike the headliners, Modernage is in fact a live rock band. This is a special treat for the youngband, as Hook’s two groups are deified and emulated by many of the electronic rock acts of the past 20 years, Modernage included.

Recently New Order released *Waiting for the Siren’s Call*, which

was a moderate success, especially by the standards of a New Order LP release. That’s not to say the album wasn’t widely purchased; instead, it points to the incredible success that the members of New Order have achieved over their long careers. They started in the late 70s as Joy Division, a band that essentially defined the recently revived “post-punk” genre and released a number of fantastic records until the suicide of lead singer Ian Curtis in 1980. Shortly thereafter, the remaining three members emerged as New Order and set about changing the musical landscape by melding the disco beats of house music with earnest song writing and pop melodies. Their song “Blue Monday” is still one of the highest selling 12 inch singles of all time.

While this show features only Hook and not the rest of New Order, it still promises to be quite an outing. One would expect no less from a man whose melodic basslines defined not one but two eras of popular music.

— Priya Randeria



Peter Hook rocks the shack at the Ottobar this Thursday, Sept. 29.



The Historic Homewood House is opening for tours this Saturday, be sure to stop by during Fall Festival.

History on display at the Homewood House

There is a special “Historic House Tour” at the Homewood House on Oct. 1 at 1 and 3 p.m. This tour, free with museum admission, will be in conjunction with the exhibitions *Portico, Passage, to Privy*. *HABS Records Homewood* and *Homewood: Icon of the Colonial Revival*.

These specialized tours of Homewood House take visitors on a journey into the places and architectural details that are usually not open to the public. These guided tours will allow visitors to examine much of the intricate architectural features for which the house and its restoration are nationally known. “From the carved moldings and elaborate plaster work to the original second floor ‘skylight’ and the Madeira garret tucked into the pediment of the portico,” the website describes the beauty of the house to be displayed on the tour.

Other highlights include the exploration of early 19th century stor-

age solutions and an opportunity to look into trap doors that uncover the structure’s innovative roofline created for water collection. This behind-the-scenes tour even allows visitors a rare visit to Homewood’s original privy and the chance to check out the 200 years of history recorded on its walls.

The Homewood House Museum is located on the campus of The Johns Hopkins University and is one of the finest surviving examples of Federal Period architecture. The design imitates a country house, or villa, style and reflects the lifestyle of a young, cosmopolitan couple from the early 19th-century in Baltimore. It was originally a five-part house built beginning in 1801 on a 130-acre farm two miles from the center of the city.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832), one of four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence, gave the house to his only son and daughter-in-law as a wedding gift in 1800. In 1973, an endowment was created to restore the historic house as a museum. After years of research and archaeological investigations, the restoration was completed and opened to the public as a fine example of early American neo-classical architecture in 1987. Today, the Homewood House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered a National Historic Landmark.

This special event requires advanced registration due to limited space. Please call (410) 516-5589 for reservations. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Check out their website at <http://www.jhu.edu/~hwdhouse/homewood.html> for more information about special exhibitions, seasonal tours, symposia, workshops and programs.

— Anusha Gopalratnam

The Pixies play Sonar this Friday

The Pixies are coming to Baltimore to kick ass and take names this Friday, Sept. 30 at the Sonar Lounge downtown. It’s the ideal venue to get pretty darn intimate with the Fleetwood Mac of the indie scene. Doors open at 8 p.m., and while tickets are sold out, there’s still one way to get close enough to bassist Kim Deal to smell the alcohol on her breath: eBay. The ticket prices may be somewhere in the stratosphere but if nothing else, that is a testament to the quality of the band in question.

The Pixies are a subversive, tension-filled group that combines elements of surf rock with classic punk with dark lyrics about sex, mutilation, space and the University of Massachussets.

They are the band that laid the groundwork for every 90 band heard on *My So Called Life*. Not only that did they help define modern indie, they could also drink the Gin Blossoms under the table in less time than it takes to play a complete set. They are visceral and aggressive, yet catchy and detached at the same time. Put plainly, they are everything that is right about rock and roll.

Still not ready to hand over \$60 to your local internet scalper? Ask yourself this: Do you really see them touring again after this, given their penchant for messy breakups and decade hiatuses? Do you really think there will be another tour, and do you actually believe they’ll stop in Baltimore for a small show rather than heading straight through to D.C. to sell out a larger crowd? This could be your last chance to see one of the greatest acts of all time, so don’t wait — log on and spend that tuition money!

— Vanessa Simmons

Religious Services

- THURSDAY, SEPT. 29
- 12 p.m. **Lutheran Discussion Group** will meet in Levering. For more information call Rev. Don Burggraf at (410) 235-2356.
- 5 p.m. **A Divine Liturgy and Dinner** for Eastern Orthodox students will be held at the Interfaith Center.
- 7:30 p.m. **Baptist Bible study** will take place at the University Baptist Church.
- 9 p.m. **Unitarian Universalist Services** with Dr. Larry Egbert will take place in the Interfaith Center Library.
- FRIDAY, SEPT. 30
- 1:15 p.m. **Jumah prayers** will be held at the Interfaith Center. Visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhumso> for more information.
- 8 p.m. **Seventh Day Adventist** services with Fredrick Russell will be held at the Interfaith Center.

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Time TBA, **Shabbat Dinner** at the Interfaith center; for more information and updated times visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jsa>.

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

- 11 a.m. **Catholic Mass** will be held at the Interfaith Center. Visit <http://www.catholic.jhu.edu> for more information.
- 11 a.m. **Aarthi** will be held at the Interfaith Center, lower level. For more information, e-mail [HSC@jhu.edu](mailto:HSC@jhu.edu).
- 2 p.m. **Stepping Stones Ministry** will hold services in Shaffer 3, followed by a fellowship meeting at 3:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m. **Baptist services and contemporary worship** will take place

at the University Baptist Church.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

- 7 p.m. **Buddhist meditation** will be practiced at the Interfaith Center.
- 8 p.m. **The Graduate Christian Fellowship** will have its weekly meeting in the Marylander Apartments in the London Room. For more information about the meeting, e-mail [Bmac@jhu.edu](mailto:Bmac@jhu.edu).

Performing Arts

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

- 8 p.m. **The Peabody Symphony Orchestra** will perform at the Peabody Institute in Friedberg Hall. Tickets are between \$8 and \$18.

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

- 7:30 p.m. **The Shriver Hall Concert Series Presents...** will take place in Shriver Hall Auditorium. This event is \$33 general admission, \$17 student and \$8 student rush tickets. For more information call (410) 516-7164.

Miscellaneous Events

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

- 6 p.m. **Novice Rowing Class** will take place at the Baltimore Rowing Club.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

- 3 p.m. - 1 a.m. **The Fall Festival** will take place all over Homewood Campus. This event is free; for more information call (410) 516-8209.
- 4:30 p.m. **The JHSPH Happy Hour** will take place in the Bloomberg building in East Baltimore in the first floor student lounge. This free event is sponsored by The Insoluble Fraction and the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Social Group.

- 5 p.m. **The National Aquarium in**



- Baltimore offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don’t pass it up! Even if you have been to the aquarium before, head down to check out the new dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 567-3845.
- 8 p.m. **The Maryland Space Grant Observatory**, located in Bloomberg, offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.
- 10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in the Mattin Center Silk Road Cafe. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.
- SATURDAY, OCT. 1
- 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. **The Fall Festival** will take place all over Homewood Campus. This event is free, for more information call (410) 516-8209.
- 1 p.m. **Special Tours: Homewood House Upstairs and Downstairs** will take place at the Homewood House Museum. See this weeks featured event column for more information.
- SUNDAY, OCT. 2
- 1 a.m. - 3 a.m. **The Fall Festival** will take place all over Homewood Campus. This event is free, for more information call (410) 516-8209.
- TUESDAY, OCT. 4
- 12:15 p.m. **Student General Assembly Meeting** will take place in the Bloomberg building in East Baltimore, in room E 9519. This event is free and is sponsored by the Student Assembly. For more information e-mail [assembly@jhsph.edu](mailto:assembly@jhsph.edu).
- 6 p.m. **Novice Rowing Class** will take place at the Baltimore Rowing Club.
- WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5
- 10 a.m. **The Baltimore Heritage Walk** will take place at the Baltimore Visitors Center.
- THURSDAY, SEPT. 29
- 3:30 a.m. **Unified Multifractal Description of Eulerian and Lagrangian Velocity Statistics** is the title of a seminar to be held by Laurent Chevillard of Mechanical Engineering at Johns Hopkins. This free event will take place in Latrobe, room 107 and is sponsored by Mechanical Engineering.
- 8 a.m. **Systems Biology and Predictive Medicine** is the title of a lecture to be given by Leroy Hood. This free event will take place in Hurd Hall on the East Baltimore campus and is sponsored by the Brady Urological Institute.
- 8:30 a.m. **Cumultaiive Effects of Mexican Migration on Infant and Child Health** is the title of a lecture to be given by Katharine Donato, Ph.D. and professor. of sociology at Rice University. This free event will take place in the Bloomberg building at 615 N. Wolfe St. and is sponsored by the Migration and Disease Working group. For more information email [mcgough@jhmi.edu](mailto:mcgough@jhmi.edu).
- 11 a.m. **New Technologies from Self-Modifying Proteins** is the title of lecture to be given by David Wood of Princeton University. This free event will take place in Maryland Hall, room 110 and is sponsored by Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.
- 12 p.m. **The Role of Nonprofits in International Development** is the title of a lecture to be given by Kathryn Welford of Luthern World Relief. This free event will take place in the Wyman Park building, room 526 and is sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies.
- 3 p.m. **Digital Microfluidics for Biosensors, Bioassays, and Biomedicine** is the title of a lecture to be given by Prof. Abraham P. Lee, Associate Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at UC Irvine. This free event will take place in Hodson Hall, room 210 and is sponsored by Mechanical Engineering at JHU.
- 3:30 p.m. **Magnetars and Their Environments** is the title of a lecture to be given by Bryan Gaensler of Harvard University. This free event will take place in Bloomberg Center in the Shaffer Room. It is sponsored by Physics and Astronomy.
- FRIDAY, SEPT. 30
- 3:30 a.m. **Unified Multifractal Description of Eulerian and Lagrangian Velocity Statistics** is the title of a seminar to be held by Joanna Gaitens, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. This free event will be held in the Bloomberg building at 615 N. Wolfe St., room E9519. For more information call (410) 955-2212.



CALENDAR

CONCERT AND MOVIE LISTINGS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

8 p.m. **Jah Works and Cant Hang** will play the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

8 p.m. **Last Emperor and guests** will play the Sonar Lounge. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8 p.m. **DJ Peter Hook, Modernage, and guests** will play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

8 p.m. **The Pixies and Lake Trout** will visit the Sonar Lounge on his speaking tour. The Taxlo dance party will follow and is seperate from the show. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

9 p.m. **The Baltimore Tattoo Museum's Back to School Party** will take place at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

8 p.m. **The Decemberists** will play the Sonar Lounge. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8 p.m. **Horrorpops, Roger Miret & the Disasters, and Left Alone** will play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Electric Six, Outrageous Cherry and Her Daily Obsession** will play at the Black Cat in Washington D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

7 p.m. **Helmet** will play the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

8:30 p.m. **New Model Army and Elkland** will play the Black Cat in Washington D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

9 p.m. **Brazilian Girls** will play the Sonar Lounge. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

9 p.m. **Anomoanon, Mazarin, and Inouk** will play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

MONDAY, OCT. 3

7 p.m. **Open Mic Night** will take place at the Funk Box. For more information visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

8 p.m. **Still Remains, Underminded, Curl Up and Die, and Aiden** will play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8:30 p.m. **The Raveonettes and Radio 4** will play the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

TUESDAY, OCT. 4

9 p.m. **Nada Surf, Say Hi To Your Mom and Army of Me** will play the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

9 p.m. **Why?, Hockey Island, The Puckerups and Trio Ricochet** will play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. **Gang of Four** will play the Sonar Lounge. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8:30 p.m. **Calla and the Celebration** will play the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

9 p.m. **The Return of MC Chris** will take place at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. **Jurassic 5** will play the Sonar Lounge. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8:30 p.m. **Mae, Circa Survive and the Working Title** will play at the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

SHOWTIMES FOR THE CHARLES THEATRE FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**Revivals**  
Saturdays at 12 p.m.  
Mondays at 7 p.m.  
Thursdays at 9 p.m.

**Bride of Frankenstein**  
Saturday, Oct. 1  
Monday, Oct. 3  
Thursday, Oct 6

**Junebug**  
Rated (R) — 1 hr. 47 min.  
2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.  
(Changes daily, Thurs. times listed)

**Saraband**  
Rated (R) — 2 hrs.  
2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

**The Aristocrats**  
Rated (NR) — 1 hr. 32 min.  
7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

**The Perfect Crime**  
Rated (NR) — 1 hr. 45 min.  
2:30p.m., 4:45p.m. 7:30p.m., 9:45 p.m.

**November**  
Rated (R) — 1 hr. 29 min.  
2:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m.

**Broken Flowers**  
Rated (R) — 1 hr. 45 min.  
2 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.  
(No 9:15 p.m. show Thursday)

SHOWTIMES FOR THE AMC TOWSON COMMONS 8 FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**The 40 Yr. Old Virgin**  
Rated (R) — 1 hr. 56 min.  
5 p.m., 7:40 p.m., 10:05 p.m.

**Cry Wolf**  
Rated (PG-13) — 1 hr. 30 min.  
5:15 p.m., 9:50 p.m.

**The Exorcism of Emily Rose**  
Rated (PG-13) — 1 hr. 54 min.  
4:45 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:45 p.m.

**Flightplan**  
Rated (PG-13) — 1 hr. 33 min.  
5:10 p.m., 7:45 p.m., 9:55 p.m.

**Just Like Heaven**  
Rated (PG-13) — 1 hr. 41 min  
4:40 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:35 p.m.

**Lord of War**  
Rated (R) — 2 hrs. 2 min.  
4:25 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:40 p.m.

**Roll Bounce**  
Rated (PG-13) — 1 hr. 52 min.  
4:50 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.

**Tim Burton's Corpse Bride**  
Rated (PG) — 1 hr. 14 min.  
4:30 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

10 a.m. **Thesis Defense Seminar: Field and Laboratory Investigation of Biological Aerosols** will be given by Ana M. Rule, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. This free event will be held in the Bloomberg building at 615 N. Wolfe St., room E9519. For more information call (410) 955-2212.

12:30 p.m. **The Nick Fitzkee Defense Seminar Pt. 1** will be given in Mergenthaler Hall, room 111. This is a free event.

2:30p.m. **The Nick Fitzkee Defense Seminar Pt. 2** will be given in Mergenthaler Hall, room 111. This is a free event.

4 p.m. **Dimensional Reduction of Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Muscle Activity for Postural Control** is the title of a lecture to be given by Lena Teng of Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. This is a free event and will take place in Krieger, room 338. This event is sponsored by Krieger Mind/Brain institute.

TUESDAY, OCT. 4

3 p.m. **Biological Electricity Generation and Hydrogen Production Using Renewable Substrates and Wastewaters** is the title of a lecture to be given by Bruce Logan of Pennsylvania State University. This free event will take place in Ames, room

234 and is sponsored by Geography and Environmental Engineering.

4 p.m. **Chemo-Mechanical Interactions Between Adsorbed Molecules and Thin Elastic Films** is the title of a lecture to be given by Matthew Begley of the Univeristy of Virginia. This free event will take place in Maryland, room 110 and is sponsored by Civil Engineering.

4:30 p.m. **"The Ample and Effective Cones of Kontsevich Moduli Spaces"** is the title of a lecture to be given by Professor Izzet Coskun of MIT. This free event will take place in Krieger 302 and is sponsored by Algebraic and Complex Geometry.

4:30 p.m. **Progress in Speaker Adaptation and Acoustic Modeling for LVCSR** is the title of a lecture to be given by George Saon of IBM. This free event will take place in Shaffer room 3 and is sponsored by JHU Center for Language and Speech Processing.

8 p.m. **MARS: Opposition Attraction** will be given by Jim Manning of STScI. This free event will take place in the Space Telescope Science Institute, auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

8:15 a.m. **Clinical Trials and Public Health** is the title of a lecture to be given by Alfred Sommer, M.D., M.H.S. and professor in the Departments of Epidemiology, International

Health and Ophthalmology. This free event will take place in the Bloomberg building at 615 N. Wolfe Street in room W2030. The JHMI Center for Clincial Trials is sponsoring.

8:30p.m. **RCTP: Fundamentals for the Research Coordinator** is the title of a workshop to be given at the JHU School of Nursing at 525 N. Wolfe Street. The cost of this workshop is \$1,500. This event is sponsored by Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

4p.m. **Identification of Novel Cancer Biomarkers by Proteomic Analysis of Nuclear Structure** is the title of a lecture to be given by Robert Getzenberg, SoM. this free event will take place is the WBSB building, West Lecture Hall and is sponsored by Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences.

4:15 p.m. **"Develo of Sitagliptin (MK-0431): A Selective Dipeptidyl Peptidase IV Inhibitor for the Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes"** is the title of a lecture to be given by Dr. Ranabir Sinha Roy, Ph.D. of Merck Pharmaceuticals. This free event will take place in Remsen room 233 and is sponsored by the Department of Chemistry.

5 p.m. **Adventures in Photobiology: Melanopsin Lights the Way** is the title of a lecture to be given by Samer Hattar, Ph.D. and assistant professor of Biology at Johns Hopkins University. This free event will take place in Mudd Hall, in the

auditorium and is sponsored by the Department of Biology.

8 p.m. **Building Grassroots Campaigns** is the title of a seminar to be given by Kate Michelman, former president of Naral Pro-Choice America. This free event will take place in the Shriver Hall auditorium and is sponsored by MSE Symposium. For more information call (410) 516-7683.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

12 p.m. **Enzyme Chemistry and Proteomics: Together Again for the First Time** is the title of a lecture to be given by John Kozarich, Chariman/President of ActivX Biosciences Inc. This free event will take place in the WBSB, room 303 and is sponsored by Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences.

12 p.m. **MMI/ID Seminar: Military Medicine and Building the Panama Canal** is the title of a lecture to be given by Val G. hemming, M.D. and Dean Emeritus of Pediatrics at the F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine. This free event will take place in the Bloomberg building at 615 N. Wolfe Street. The Division of Infectious Diseases is sponsoring, for more information call (410) 955-3459.

12:30 p.m. **Strategies of Resisting American Hegemony and the Road to Balancing** will be given by Jeremy Pressman of the University of Conneticut. This free event will

Got an Event?

Send details about future events, including date, time, location, a brief summary of the event and contact information to [News.Letter@jhu.edu](mailto:News.Letter@jhu.edu). In order to have the event make it into next week's calendar, please e-mail all events by the Monday before publication.

— Compiled by John Lichtefeld

NIGHTLIFE

CLUBS

**9:30 Club**, 815 V St., NW, Washington, (202) 393-0930  
**Baja Beach Club**, 55 Market Pl., (410) 727-0468  
**Bohagers**, 701 S. Eden St., (410) 563-7220  
**Black Cat**, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 667-7960  
**Brass Monkey**, 1601 Eastern Ave., (410) 522-0784  
**Buddies Pub and Jazz Club**, 313 N. Charles St., (410) 332-4200  
**Cat's Eye Pub**, 1730 Thames St., (410) 276-9085  
**Club 2314**, 2314 Boston St., (410) 276-9556  
**DeGroen's Grill**, 104 Albemarle St., (410) 837-5000  
**Fletcher's**, 701 S. Bond St., (410) 558-1889  
**Hal Daddy's**, 4119 E. Lombard St., (410) 342-3239  
**Harry's**, 1200 N. Charles St., (410) 685-2828  
**Hammerjacks**, 316 Guilford Ave., (410) 234-0044  
**Horse You Came In On**, 1626 Thames St., (410) 327-8111  
**Latin Palace**, 509 S. Broadway, (410) 522-6700  
**Lava Lounge**, Pier Four, (410) 539-7888  
**Ottobar**, 2549 N. Howard St., (410) 662-0069  
**Recher Theatre**, 512 York Rd., Towson, (410) 337-7178  
**Redwood Trust**, 200 E. Redwood St., (410) 669-9500  
**Sonar**, 407 E. Saratoga St., (410) 327-8333  
**The Talking Head**, 203 E. Davis St., (410) 962-5588  
**The Vault**, 401 W. Baltimore St., (410) 244-6000  
**Waterfront Hotel**, 1710 Thames St., (410) 327-4886  
**Wyatt's**, 1614 Eastern Av., (410) 732-8656

COMEDY

**Comedy Factory**, 36 Light St., (410) 752-4189  
**The Improv**, 6 Market Pl. at Power Plant Live, (410) 727-8500  
**Tracy's Comedy Shop**, 9306 Harford Rd., (410) 665-8600

COFFEE

**Borders Bookstore and Music**, 415 York Rd., (410) 296-0791  
**Cafe Tattoo**, 4825 Belair Rd., (410) 325-7427  
**Donna's**, 3101 St. Paul St., (410) 889-3410  
**Fell's Point Cafe**, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800  
**Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot**, 1818 Eastern Av., 410-276-3865  
**HopStop**, Levering Hall, JHU, (410) 516-6219  
**Images Cafe**, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 235-3054  
**Margaret's Cafe**, 909 Fell St., (410) 276-5606  
**One World Cafe**, 100 W. University Parkway, (410) 235-5777  
**Sweet Retreat**, 3215 N. Charles St.  
**XandO**, 3003 N. Charles St., (410) 889-7076  
**Ze Mean Bean Cafe**, 1739 Fleet St., (410) 675-5999

MOVIE THEATRES

**AMC Towson Commons 8**, 435 York Rd., (410) 825-5233  
**Charles Theatre**, 1711 N. Charles St., (410) 727-FILM  
**Rotunda Cinematheque**, 711 W. 40th St., (410) 235-4800  
**Senator Theatre**, 5904 York Rd., (410) 435-8338

EXPOSURE

By MARK MEHLINGER



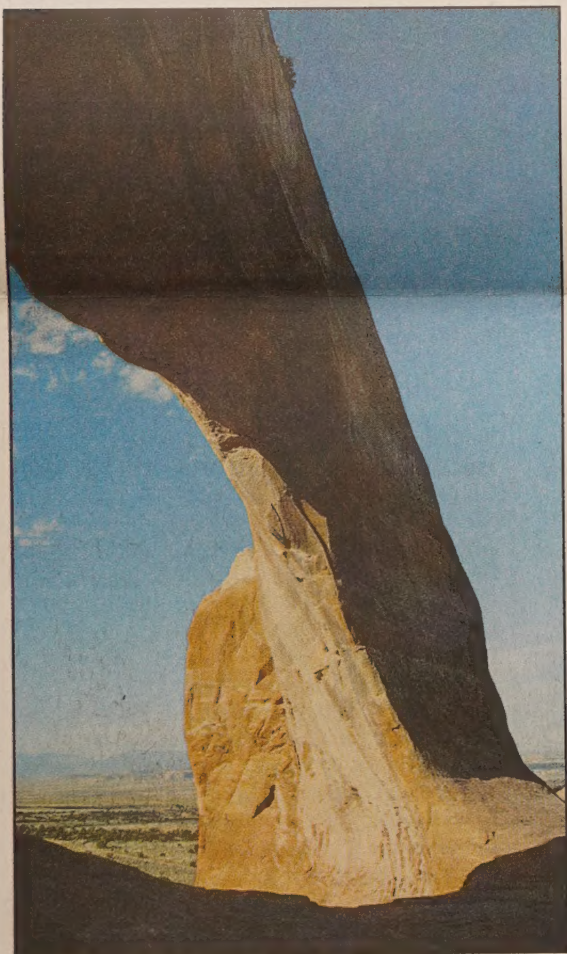


# THE SCENIC SOUTHWEST

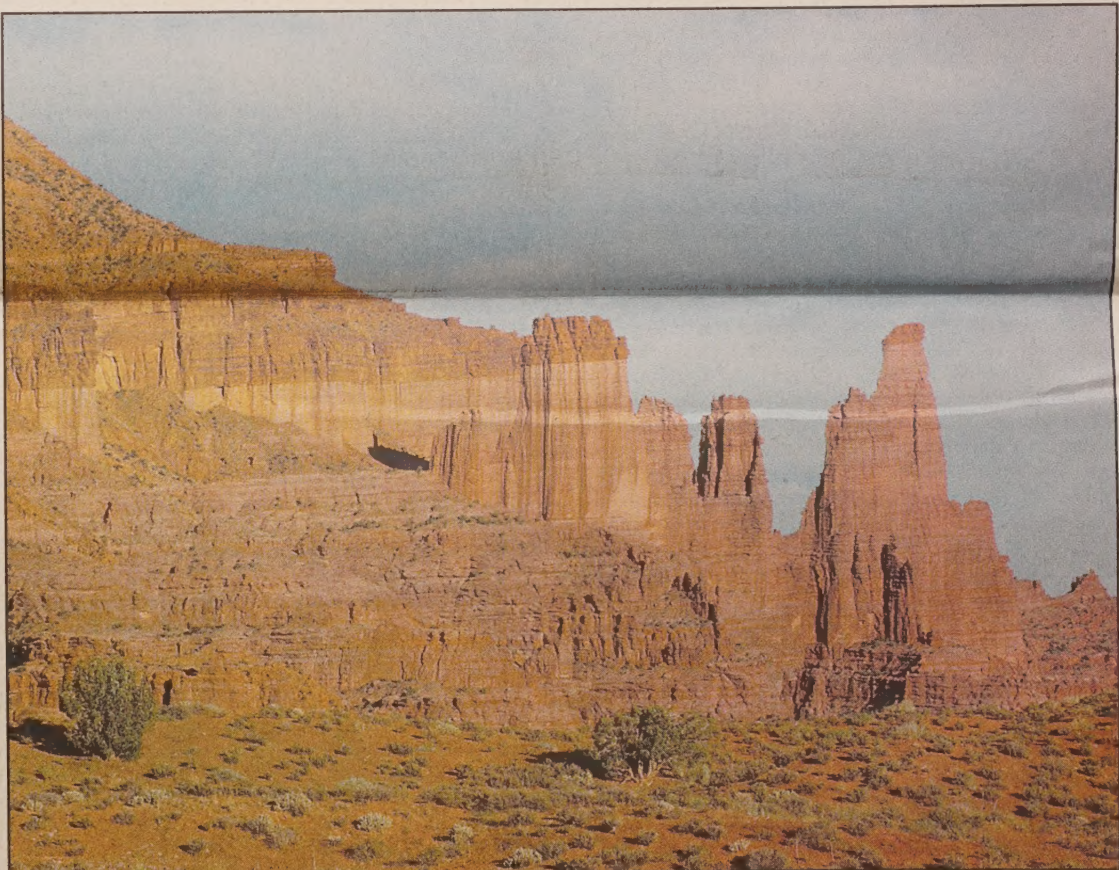
PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MIKE SCHUMP



Ancient rock formations tower above the landscape in the sun-baked desert that is Moab, Utah. Moab is home to nearly 2000 unique rock formations that date from prehistoric times.



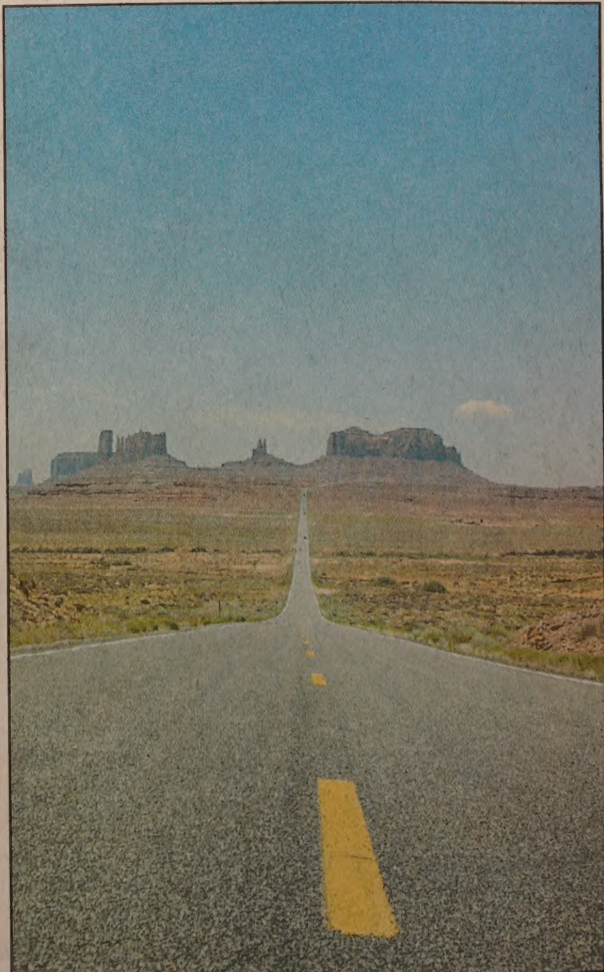
Wilson Arch breaks through the afternoon Moab skyline.



The red rock canyons of Moab, formed hundreds of years ago, are some of the largest in the continental United States.



The beaches of San Diego are welcome respites from the harsh deserts only a few hundred miles to the east.



Long, desolate highways cut through Arizonian desert lands.